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ABSTRACT

H.W. Gibson's life was devoted to camping for boys, from his first job as a Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) secretary in 1887 through his work as founder of two YMCA camps, state YMCA secretary, author of eight books on the subject, member of camp director associations which preceded the American Camping Association (ACA), and then as president of ACA. His hope in writing a history of organized camping was that the new generations of camp directors might benefit from acquaintance with the pioneers and their commitment to their campers, and restore something of the earlier spirit, if not its practice. It is with this same hope that Gibson's history has been reprinted. By using the quick-copy process, the historical perspective is enhanced by the original print and advertising in each installment of the history, which appeared in "The Camping Magazine" from January through December of 1936. The chapter titles are: I. The Early Days; II. Pioneer Camp Personalities; III. Establishment of Institutional Camps; IV. The Private Camps; V. Origin of Conferences and Association Work; VI. Genesis of a Camping Literature; VII. Leadership Training Conferences and Courses; VIII. Spread of the American Camp to Other Lands. In addition, there is an index to people mentioned in the various installments, an index to camps, and an "index to places/things/books/etc." (AN)

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THE HISTORY OF ORGANIZED CAMPING IN THE UNITED STATES

H.W. GIBSON

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Preface

The idea for reprinting this series of articles on the "History of Organized Camping" occurred to me when I had the opportunity to do research in the archives of the American Camping Association at Bradford Woods, Martinsville, Indiana. It was my first opportunity to see first-hand early influential books and magazines which are historically important to outdoor education. It seemed to me that one of the principles of outdoor education was the importance of "hands-on" materials. Since many people are unable to see original materials, I thought it might be of interest to have a facimile available for students of the outdoor education movement.

It is also my hope that by using the quick-copy process that an historical perspective will be enhanced by the type of print and advertising which appeared in the original publication.

Ramona E. Curtis
Lorado Taft Field Campus
September 20, 1979

FOREWORD

The first task of a would-be historian is to familiarize himself with the times about which he intends to write and to acquire a feeling for the personalities concerned and their philosophies, background and motivation. Only then can events, fact and legend be put together in perspective with reasonable accuracy. Skill as a detective is needed to spot clues and analyze data. Information about the early camps and their founders is not to be found in any one place, for files and reports (if they ever existed) are lost, and the leaders of a century ago are gone. A researcher must seek out articles in magazines no longer published, in obscure specialized biographies, in newspaper and local historical societies, and alumni recollection.

This reprint of H. W. Gibson's "History of Organized Camping" is important since it offers a glimpse of the earliest camps and their founders, as seen by a contemporary. Gibson's life was devoted to camping for boys from his first job as a Y.M.C.A. secretary in 1887. As the founder of two Y camps, a state Y secretary, an author of eight books on the subject, and an active member of the various camp director associations which preceded the American Camping Association (1903-35), Gibson had first hand knowledge of the camping movement. He also had the motivation to follow the research of Porter Sargent and Eugene Lehman and the courage to write what he knew, incomplete or biased as it might be, giving the next author a base on which to build.

He had a deep concern over the trend away from the simple outdoor life and satisfaction in work well done toward "luxuries, ultra-efficiency, and super-scientific management" with too little appreciation of the natural world and basic values.

Gibson wanted to transmit the inspiration and learnings he had received as a young man. His hope was that the new generations of camp directors might benefit from acquaintance with the pioneers and their commitment to their campers, and restore something of the earlier spirit, if not its practice. It is with this same hope that Gibson's history has been reprinted for the new generation of people interested in working with youth in the out-of-doors.

Eleanor Eels
President Emeritus
Fund for the Advancement of Camping
Chicago, Illinois

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The History of Organized Camping

By

H. W. GIBSON

Past President, American
Camping Association

The Early Days

Editor's Note.—This is the first of a series of articles by Mr. Gibson on the history of organized camping in America. Each issue of the magazine will contain a chapter of this history until it is completed.

FOREWORD

TO assemble the scattered information concerning the genesis of the organized camp movement and present it in one volume is the purpose of this thesis. The accomplishment of this has required considerable research in order that the information secured may be accurate. Much credit is due Eugene H. Lehman and Porter Sargent for their faithful recording of important events in the early history of the movement. Their patient persistence in following leads, resulted in uncovering information which otherwise would have been lost. To David S. Keiser is given the credit of securing the story of Dr. Rothrock and his unique camp. Acknowledgment is also given to those who have furnished historical items and verified many incidents and happenings of the early camping days. This is a history rather than an analysis or interpretation of the movement and it is compiled with the hope that it will be of assistance to students and others seeking information about the organized camping movement.

CHAPTER 1

THE EARLY DAYS

Biography is the only true history. Great movements in history have always revolved around some outstanding figure. History is best understood through biography. People are the makers of history.—GAMALIEL BRADFORD.

The history of the organized camping movement is largely the history of persons, men and women, possessing the pioneer spirit and the vision of bringing back into our highly civilized and in many respects, artificial method of living, those values of life which come from liv-

ing in the great out of doors. Since the time of Moses people have camped out along the banks of streams, by the shore of lakes and in the mountains, but camping as an organized, co-operative way of living, is a comparatively recent movement and is distinctly American in its origin.

"Our race began its career in the open," writes George W. Hinckley, in one of his delightful little books. "After a time it began to build houses. The houses were made closer and closer, tighter and tighter, until air was shut out. If a man were feeble, it was understood that the most dangerous thing he could do was to breathe air out-of-doors after sunset until the sun was well into the heavens again; night air was believed to be deadly though it was all that was available. The race was dying; dying of its own stupidity; dying from in-dooriness."

"Then there arose apostles of fresh air; they preached the doctrine of out-dooriness; the race was getting its breath again, and coming into its own."

A rather unique analysis of this in-dooriness tendency is expressed in the following quaint quatrain:

"When ye houses were made of straw
Ye men were made of oak
But when ye houses were made of oak
Ye men were made of straw."

Previous to the birth of the organized camping movement, a group of "men of oak," because of their understanding of the out of doors and wealth of outdoor experience, and through the contagious enthusiasm of their writings, inspired and stimulated a new interest in the joy of out-dooriness. Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, Kit Carson, Thoreau, Isaac Walton, "Adirondack" Murray, "Nesmuck" Sears, W. Hamilton Gibson, Col. Buzzacott, and later, Daniel

¹ G. W. Hinckley, *Roughing it With Boys*, p. 1.

Beard, Ernest Thompson Seton, Edward Breck, Horace Kephart, and a host of others, represent the real, woodsy type of outdoor life—a noble roster of rugged personalities, whose discipleship to “nature in the raw,” wins our admiration and as we read their books, there wells up within us a feeling of regret that so much of the real love for the out-of-doors which they had, is being supplanted in our modern camps by the conventions of modern life, thus exposing our boys and girls to a camping experience somewhat formal and complex. It is said that history repeats itself, and it may be that the spirit, if not the practice, of the pioneers, may again return and save our present-day camps from the danger of ultra-efficiency and super-scientific management.

LAYING FOUNDATIONS IN 1861

History is being made more rapidly than it is being accurately recorded. Although the organized camping idea is only a half century old, considerable difficulty has been experienced in securing data concerning its origin. It was Eugene H. Lehman, who, in his search for material and data for an article on “Camping Out,” for the Encyclopedia Britannica, discovered that camping, as an organized, educational project, was undertaken as early as 1861 by Frederick Williams Gunn, the founder of the Gunnery School for Boys in Washington, Connecticut. Mr. Lehman writes in Spalding's *Camps and Camping* for 1929,¹ as follows:

“On May 26, 1928, I wrote a letter to Mr. Hamilton Gibson, the present headmaster of the Gunnery School, requesting information relative to Gunnery Camp. He replied as follows under date of June 23, 1928;

“My dear Mr. Lehmann:

“I am responding to your letter of May 26th and giving you as best I may the information regarding Gunnery Camp requested in that letter.

“As very few of those who remembered the camp are now living, I referred the matter to Mrs. John C. Brinsmade, daughter of Mr. Gunn, and I inclose with this note her statement. I know that Mrs. Brinsmade has consulted and verified all dates and facts as reported by her. Insofar as I know, this is the most complete and reliable statement of the Gunnery Camp that can possibly be procured. I

trust that it may be of interest to you and may be also what you wish in the way of information.

“Very sincerely yours,

“Hamilton Gibson.”

Here is the statement referred to and signed by Mary Gunn Brinsmade (Mrs. John C. Brinsmade):

The Gunnery Camp—The First School Camp

“The Gunnery, a home school for boys, was founded in the fall of 1849 by Frederick William Gunn and his wife, Abigail Brinsmade, in Washington, Connecticut. They began with ten boys, the number gradually increasing to seventy boarders, with a large number of day pupils.

“The school year was divided in two parts—the summer term from the middle of May to the end of September, and the winter term from the middle of November to the end of March.

“When the Civil War began, the boys were eager to be soldiers, to march, and especially to sleep out in tents. They were given opportunity to roll up in blankets and sleep outdoors on the ground, and sometimes the whole school would camp for a night or two in this way at a lovely lake near by. In the summer of 1861, Mr. and Mrs. Gunn took the whole school on a hike, or gypsy trip, as it was called, about four miles to Milford, on the Sound, near New Haven. This trip took two days. The tents, baggage, supplies, etc., were carried in a large market wagon. There were also a few comfortable carriages and two donkeys, but many walked much, and some of the boys all of the way. Camp was established on the beach at Welch's Point and named Camp Comfort. Here two happy weeks were spent boating, sailing, fishing and tramping. This proved such a helpful and delightful experience that Mr. Gunn repeated it in the years of 1863 and 1865. Old boys came back to join the merry troop, and with friends of the school, some of them ladies, made up a party of sixty or more in the following trips.

“At a later period this seaside jaunt gave place to a Gunnery Camp at Point Beautiful on Lake Waramaug, seven miles from the school, and for twelve years the school two weeks in August, camping in this picturesque and delightful spot. The Gunnery was one of the latest schools to adopt the long summer vacation and this change eliminated the summer camp.

“In your letter of May 26, you mention Camp Chocorua, founded in 1881 by Mr. Ernest Balch, as the first camp.

“Frederick William Gunn carried on a series of successful camps for boys from the summer of 1861 to that of 1879. The number of campers increased from sixty the first year to one hundred or more in

¹ E. H. Lehman, *Camps and Camping*, 1929, p. 34.

the last years. This camping was part of the school regime, and not an organized camp for the purpose of money-making. And the Gunnery School encamped fifteen times in the twenty years before the date of 1881 as the founding of Camp Chocorua.

"This camping is so far back in the past that only a very few persons are left to whom I could refer you. You may find in 'The Master of Gunnery,' published in 1887, and to be found in some public libraries, a brief confirmation of these statements; also Dr. J. G. Holland in his story of 'Arthur Bonnicastle'¹ gives a very good picture of Gunner Camp. His son and his grandson are alumni of the school. I was fortunate enough to be a member of every one of these camps. My father was Frederick William Gunn. He died in 1881 and John C. Brinsmade, my husband, succeeded him as Headmaster and was there forty years until he retired in 1922 when the present Headmaster, Hamilton Gibson, became Head of the school.

"It may also interest you to know that base ball was introduced into the Gunnery School in 1860. The game was brought to the school by three brothers, sons of Judge William H. Van Cott of New York City, the first President of the Mutual Baseball Association of that city. For years the boys played the game three afternoons a week and on Saturday, and in the long summers the nines through this constant practice grew very proficient.

"Sincerely yours,

"Mary Gunn Brinsmade (Mrs. John C.)"

The above statement clearly ascribes the honor of being "Father of The Organized Camp" to Frederick William Gunn, who in 1861, seventy-four years ago, established Camp Gunnery.

THE DR. ROTHROCK CAMP—1876—THE FIRST PRIVATE CAMP

The published statement of Mr. Lehmann regarding Camp Gunnery, stimulated others in doing research work, among whom was David S. Keiser. He discovered the "North Mountain School of Physical Culture," conducted in 1876 by Joseph Trimble Rothrock, a practicing physician of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.² Mr. Keiser quotes from a biological sketch which Dr. Rothrock wrote for "Some American Medical Botanists," edited by Dr. Howard A. Kelly, the eminent gynecologist, and who is still actively engaged in his profession as a member of the staff of Johns Hopkins Medical School, Bal-

timore, Maryland. This book was published by the Southwark Company, Troy, N. Y. Dr. Rothrock states:

"In 1876 I had the happy idea of taking weakly boys in summer out into camp life in the woods and under competent instruction, mingling exercises and study, so that pursuit of health could be combined with acquisition of practical knowledge outside the usual academic lines. I founded the school on North Mountain, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, and designated it a School of Physical Culture. There had been, I think, but a single attempt to do this work at an earlier period. * * * The multitude of such camps now (about 1913) shows that the seed fell into good ground."

The camp was located on property adjacent to a hotel, the North Mountain House, located about thirty-three miles northeast of Wilkes-Barre, and was 200 yards from Lake Ganago. The campers were twelve years of age or older and came mostly from Philadelphia and Wilkes-Barre. The camp opened on June 15 and closed on October 15th. The tuition was probably \$200.00 for the four months. There were twenty campers and five "teachers" at this first camp.

Dr. Rothrock believed in advertising, at least he was not averse to others broadcasting the story of his cultural enterprise, for, on July 18, 1876, there appeared in the Wilkes-Barre Times, an editorial on the inauguration of the camp, also a long letter from a correspondent was given prominence.

The 1876 enterprise not having paid expenses, Dr. Rothrock decided to spend the next year in Alaskan exploration. Mr. Lewis H. Taylor, then a teacher in the Wilkes-Barre High School and who later became a distinguished physician, carried on the camp in a small way in 1877 with a few boys and several teachers. In 1878 a Mr. Kelly, (who today is the famous physician on the staff of Johns Hopkins Medical School, Baltimore, Maryland), joined Mr. Taylor and conducted the camp. They advertised in the Philadelphia Bulletin and in the Wilkes-Barre Times and had a camp of about twenty boys. At the end of the season the camp was closed. "The bills and counselors were paid—and as to profit, there wasn't any."

Dr. Rothrock was greatly interested in forestry and in the Capitol building at Harrisburg,

(Continued on Page 26)

¹ See J. G. Holland, *Arthur Bonnicastle*, pp. 288-292.

² David S. Keiser, *Campers and Hither*, April 1929, page 4.

The History of Organized Camping

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Pennsylvania, is a memorial tablet erected in his memory by his friends. The inscription on the tablet reads as follows:

The Father of Forestry in Pennsylvania
Joseph Trimble Rothrock, 1839-1922

Patriot, Soldier, Pioneer, Forester, Botanist, Sportsman, Physician, Educator, Author, Public Servant, Distinguished Citizen and Loving Husband and Father, Leader in the Conservation of Our Forests and Streams.

THE FIRST CHURCH CAMP—1880

Rev. George W. Hinckley in 1880, when pastor of a church in West Hartford, Connecticut, conceived the idea of taking the boys of his parish on a camping trip. He established his camp on Gardner's Island, Wakefield, Rhode Island. In his party were seven boys including three Chinese high school boys who were being educated in America.³

In a letter received from Mr. Hinckley on February 12, 1934, he recalls the following incident in connection with the 1880 camp which is worth recording:

"At this distant day I cannot recall much about that camp except two or three incidents which I used to offer in addresses to illustrate some point. Frank Fenn was a fatherless, motherless boy whom I was befriending in the parsonage—giving home and school privileges. A few days before we were to leave West Hartford for Wakefield, he told me that he heard that I was going to take three Chinese boys with the party and he wanted to know if it were true. When I replied that it was so, he exclaimed, "That is all I want to know. If I can't camp out without taking along a lot of heathen Chinese, I don't want to go."

"I explained to him that he need not go but I was going, and if no one else went, I would take the three Chinese boys anyway. Frank changed his mind in a day or two and went with us.

"One of the first days in camp we were sitting at the long table under the trees, when a boy from one of my "best families" said to one of the Chinese students: "Woo, chuck me a biscuit will you," to which Woo replied, "I will pass you a biscuit; we needn't act like heathen even if we are in the woods," and the "heathen Chinese" to whom Frank Fenn had objected had formulated an underlying principle of camp life.

Mr. Hinckley later founded the Good Will

Farm for boys which has become a famous institution located at Hinckley, Maine, and where the Good Will Camp was held for many years. It took the form of an Assembly with a daily program consisting of "sane and sensible" religious periods; an educational program; swimming, baseball, tennis in the afternoon, and sings, talks and entertainments in the evening.

"Adirondack" Murray (Rev. W. H. H. Murray) was Mr. Hinckley's great example of physical manhood and so great was his admiration for this man, that he erected on one of the trails in the Good Will Woods, a massive structure of stone work bearing three tablets in his honor. The tablets read as follows:

To Adirondack Murray

"Rev. W. H. H. Murray is buried on the Murray Homestead in Guilford, Conn., where he was born April 26, 1840. He died March 3, 1904. A splendid type of physical manhood, magnetic personality, preacher, writer, unique character. He was the father of the modern outdoor movement, and by his writings inspired multitudes with love of mountains and lake, camp and bivouac, woods and trails. This is erected by G. W. Hinckley in recognition of a great service to humanity 1920."

The second inscription is taken from the preface of one of Murray's books and reads:

"To all that camp on shores of lakes, on breezy points, on banks of rivers, by shady beaches, on slopes of mountains, and under green trees anywhere, I, an old camper, a wood lover, an aboriginal veneered with civilization, send greeting. I thank God for the multitude of you; for the strength and the beauty of you; for the healthfulness of your tastes and the naturalness of your natures. I eat and drink with you; I hunt and fish with you; I boat and bathe with you; and with you day and night enjoy the gifts of the good world."

The inscription on the third tablets reads as follows:

"The End of the Trail."

Mr. Hinckley writes that it was the custom to go to this monument once a year, usually on the last evening of May and hold a brief ceremony. Just at dusk we would sing America; then we would repeat the Lord's Prayer; then there would be a short address and the singing of Good Will's "Trail Song." After the singing was ended, fagot of birch was lighted, and laid on a part of the stonework, and this was called "lighting the symbolic camp-fire."

Frederick William Gunn, Dr. Joseph Trimble

³ Porter Sargent, *Handbook of Summer Camps*. 1929, p. 19.

Rothrock, Rev. George W. Hinckley—educator, physician, clergyman—recognized the need of bettering boy life, through rational, healthful living out of doors. By this simple life, rugged virtues which were characteristic of the early pioneers, could be practiced, and without precedents to follow, conferences to inspire, or organizations to promote, they proceeded to make real their ideal. These three men made a contribution to the organized camping movement of greater significance than is recognized at the present.

Unselfish motives, sympathetic understanding, tactful leadership, and sound principles of work, play and study, were applied in the administration of their camps and many of the boys who camped with these leaders of contagious personalities, became men of influence and importance in the business and professional life.

(To be continued)

The Summer Camp Library

(Continued from Page 19)

an easy and very satisfactory way of supplementing any books that may be in the camp. The only expense is the freight charged on the boxes of books sent. [Further information and lists of available books may be obtained by writing the Wisconsin Traveling Library Commission, Madison, Wisconsin.*]

Methods of handling books in camp vary. It has been our experience that it is best to put one of the counselors or older campers in charge of the library. While books may be read at any time in the living or assembly room—or wherever they are kept—they cannot be taken out of this room without the permission of the counselor librarian. Because of the urgent demand for many of the books, they may be drawn for only a few days at a time.

Books may be drawn from the library at a certain period just before lunch. None of the camp books can be taken on any of the camping trips. There is not only the question of the extra weight added to the pack but also the danger of losing the book or getting it soaked in an unexpected rain storm. Because of this

last rule, we have always been able to return the books loaned in good condition.

We have found it advisable to have a separate group of books for counselors only. In this list might be included special stories for telling around the fire. If campers do not have a chance to read these stories first, it is more fascinating for them to listen to them being told.

In addition to an adequate supply of books there should also be a number of the best magazines chosen to suit the needs of the various camp groups. An excellent method of arousing interest in the magazines is to have the campers vote on the ones they would like in the camp. A check on their choices may be made by submitting the list to parents for their choice or approval. Campers may be encouraged to have their own magazines sent to camp during the season.

Let us—as camp directors—do all we can to raise and keep up the standard of the libraries in our organized summer camps.

"He who loveth a book will never want a faithful friend, a wholesome counselor, a cheerful companion, or an effectual comforter."



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*Of course, in other states, the State Library or Library Commission makes a similar service.

The History of Organized Camping

By

H. W. GIBSON

Past President, American
Camping Association

Pioneer Camp Personalities

EDITOR'S NOTE.—This is the second chapter of Mr. Gibson's work on the history of the organized camp movement. The succeeding chapters will appear, one each month, in *The Camping Magazine*.

CHAPTER II

"Every institution is but the lengthened shadow of a man."

—RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

The "lengthened shadow" of Ernest Berkeley Balch, who established Camp Chocorua in 1881, is seen in the growth of the present organized camping movement. Mr. Balch deliberately planned a camp to meet special educational needs, according to his statement published in the 1935 edition of Porter Sargent's *Handbook of Summer Camps*.¹ After carefully reading this statement and other accounts of the camp published in several magazines, we are convinced that in Camp Chocorua—the Balch Camp—were formulated the principles which govern the management of well-organized camps of today. Methods have changed but the principles are practically unchanged.

The permanent influence of the contagious personalities who conducted these early camps is clearly described in the following paragraphs taken from *Arthur Bonnicastle* by J. G. Holland, whose son and grandson attend the Gunnery Camp.² The original name of the school or of its principals are not used in this novel. The name used for the school is "The Birds Nest" and the name given the principals are Mr. and Mrs. Bird. It was a custom of the Birds to invite old school boys to join them in the annual encampments of the school, and in the closing chapter of this book we find a description of the experience of one of the "old boys," who returned to the camp of his early boyhood.

"The days were not long enough for our pleasure. Bathing, boating, ball playing and eating through the day, and singing, and story-telling during the evening, constituted the round of waking delights, and the nights, cool and sweet, were long with refreshing and dreamless slumber.

"There is no kinder mother than the earth, when we trustfully lay our heads upon her bosom. She holds balm and blessing for the rich and the poor, for the hardy and the dainty alike, which the bed of luxury never knows. Pure air to breathe, pure water to drink and a pillow of stone—ah! how easy it is for the invisible ministers of health and happiness to build ladders between such conditions and heaven!

"Far back over the dim years that have come between, I see those camp-fires glowing still, through evenings full of music and laughter, I see the groups of merry boys dancing around them. I hear their call for Echo to the woods, and then, in the pauses, the splash of oars, as some group of late sailors come slowly in, stirring the lake into ripples that seem phosphorescent in the fire-light. I watch those fires crumbling away, and dying at last into cloudy darkness, or into the milder moonlight which then asserts its individual sway, and floods lake, and forest and mountain, and all the night-sweet atmosphere with its steady radiance. * * * I go at last to my own tent, and lie down to sleep of blessed, blank unconsciousness, from which I am aroused by the cry of healthy lungs that find no weariness in play, and by tramping of feet around me that spring to the tasks and sports of the day with unflagging appetite and interest.

"Did Mr. and Mrs. Bird know how much pleasure they were giving to the young life around them? Did they know that they were enabling us all to lay up memories more precious than gold? Did they know that they were developing a love of nature and of healthful and simple pleasures that should be a constant guard around those young feet, when they should find themselves among the slippery places of life and the seductive influences of artificial society? Did they know that making the acquaintance of the birds and flowers and open sky and expanding water and rough life was better than

¹ Porter Sargent, *Handbook of Summer Camps*, 1935, p. 55-72.
² J. G. Holland, *Arthur Bonnicastle*, p. 388-392.

the culture and restraint of drawing rooms? Did they know that these boys, deprived of this knowledge and these influences, would go through life lacking something inexpressibly valuable? Surely they did, or they would not have sacrificed labor and care and comfort to achieve these objects and results. A thousand blessings on you, my wise, patient, self-sacrificing friends! It is no wonder that all you have lived under your ceaseless and self-devoted ministry love you!"

Such is the compensation of camp directors who give of their best to purposeful organized camping.

Camp Chocorua—1881—Ernest Balch

Ernest Balch first conceived the idea of a boys' camp as an institution in 1880. He states that "The miserable condition of boys belonging to well-to-do families in summer hotels, considered from the point of view of their right development, set me to looking for a substitute. That year, also, and in 1881 I had thought out the main lines of a boys' camp. That year with two boys, Henry Blair and my brother, Stephen Elliott Balch, I made a short camping trip to Big Asquam, Holderness, New Hampshire. In June 1881 we discovered and landed on Burnt Island, a perfect island for a boys' camp, where we calmly built our first building—Old '81—under the impression that nobody owned the island. A visit from the scandalized owner developed into a deal by which I bought the island for forty dollars." The camp was named Chocorua because of the superb view of Chocorua Mountain, thirty miles away.

From the very beginning of his camp adventure, Mr. Balch believed in advertising, for in the issue of *The Churchman*, March 18, 1882, there appeared this advertisement:

A Summer Camp for Boys: Camp Chocorua, Asquam Lake, Holderness, N. H. Opens for its second year, July, 1882. Boys are taught swimming, rowing, and fishing, and the practical work of Camp life. Parents will find here a healthy, happy, outdoor life for their boys. The best references furnished. For further information address Ernest Berkeley Balch, 743 Lexington Ave., New York City.

In *McClure's Magazine* for August, 1893, appears an article, "A Boys' Republic. The Story of Camp Chocorua," written by Mr. Balch's oldest brother, Albert Balch. The story

was a feature article in this initial volume of the magazine, and eighteen line drawings or sketches and two half tone cuts were used in illustrating the article. The following paragraphs are quoted from the article:

"Camp Chocorua, founded by Ernest Berkeley Balch in 1881 and continued until 1889, was a camp in which boys could have plenty of out door sport, a reasonable amount of work, and abundant opportunity to enjoy themselves in their own way. Starting with five boys and a small frame shanty in 1881, it grew into one of the oldest institutions that may be imagined. * * * Its great success was due to the fact that it was modelled on real life as men see it. The motive underlying all of its pleasant features and most quaint custom was twofold: first, responsibility, personally and for others and second, work, not only the work which each one must do for himself, but also that extra work which brings with it a tangible reward. The boys were encouraged in everything that would tend to develop them physically, to make them strong and healthy, but they also found themselves members of a little world that had a high standard of honor, a world in which the laws governing the conflicting interests of men were recognized and obeyed.

"There were many paths built carefully to grade and one of them led to the grove of silver birch, in the midst of which was the Chapel. I think it was one of the prettiest places I ever saw. The walls were the living trees, the seats were rustic benches, and the reading deck was a rock, oddly fashioned, of the stone of the Granite State. Every Sunday afternoon when it was fair weather the service was held there.

"The boy who was careless, or lost his clothing, or could not put on his shoes, was ranked as an 'incapable.' * * * It was remarkable how quickly these 'incapables' learned to care for themselves. As they proved themselves to be more capable they were restored to the regular life of the camp.

"The boys in the camp were divided into four crews, and a stroke for each crew was named by the faculty. A stroke had a sub-stroke, or second in command of the crew. These crews did all the work of the camp, three being on duty every day and one off—the kitchen crew, the police crew, and the dish crew. Each crew worked about five hours a day.

"Sports came toward the middle of the second term of the camp. Friends and relatives were invited. There was a game at baseball, some sets of tennis, there were sailing, rowing, and paddling matches. Swimming and diving contests, foot racing and the like. The prizes were bits of ribbon

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History of Camping

(Continued from Page 19)

with the name of the camp, the contest and the date painted on them. * * * There was one prize awarded at the sports which might come to any boy. This was the "C. C." pin in silver. Those who won it were the boys who had in their own way shown themselves to have got the greatest good out of camp and who had done the most good to others. The pins were not common; two or three, perhaps, were given in a summer, and sometimes none at all. It is most difficult to define the conditions under which the pin was given; it came as a result of a unanimous feeling that it had been won, rather than as the result of rules obeyed. A conscious effort to win it was enough to prevent success. The boy had to show the manliness, justice, truth, conscientiousness in him, not for reward, but because he had them in him; and then the reward, or rather the recognition came."

Elizabeth Balch, a half-sister of Ernest Balch, describes the camp in an article which appeared in *St. Nicholas* for June, 1886, entitled, "The Boys' Paradise," and which was illustrated with three wood cuts or drawings. Miss Balch writes that from an enrollment of five boys in 1881, the camp increased to twenty-five boys in 1885 with five men on the faculty. The boys slept in wooden buildings, thoroughly ventilated, and either curled up in an army blanket or on mattresses placed on the floor. The camp uniform was gray flannel shirt and short trousers and scarlet caps, while their gray shirts were laced with scarlet cords. Camp uniforms were a part of the required equipment as early as 1881.

The religious or spiritual life of boys was carefully planned, and provided for in the program of the early camps. Miss Balch describes the chapel at Camp Chocorua as follows:

"The Camp Chapel was carefully designed, the Altar a huge boulder raised into place, upon which was a large cross made of white birch. The lectern, a rock finely shaped by nature, was finished out of the ledge. The Altar, on Sundays, was dressed with leaves and flowers by the boys. A procession in cotta and cassock, came down the pathway singing hymns. The Episcopal service was used by Mr. Balch. The offerings went to different charities."

The above statements regarding the Balch camp reveal the fact that creative camping, the spiritualization and division of work, achievement tests, group responsibility, and trained leadership had their origin fifty years ago, in

this remarkable "Boys' Paradise," and are therefore not so recent as many camp directors imagine. A wise man of long ago said "there is nothing new under the sun," and history seems to verify this statement.

Camp Harvard—1882.—William Ford Nichols.

In the same issue of *St. Nicholas* (June, 1886), which contained the article by Miss Balch, appeared the story of Camp Harvard, written by a camper. The camp was conducted by two students of the Cambridge Theological Seminary. One of the students, according to a statement made by Mr. Balch in 1928, was William Ford Nichols, who had written to him for information concerning Camp Chocorua. It was through this correspondence that Mr. Nichols was led to start his camp in 1882, at Stow, Massachusetts. The article in *St. Nicholas* locates the camp on "the shore on one of New Hampshire's most picturesque lakes, about equi-distance from Winchenden, Massachusetts, and Rindge, New Hampshire." The camp was conducted along similar lines to that of Chocorua. The uniform was similar also, with the addition of red "high stockings" and a "stout" red belt. "Bunk-stretchers" or slackers were in evidence as early as 1882, for in Camp Harvard, such an individual was labelled a "boomerang."

Dr. Winthrop T. Talbot—1884

Camp Harvard was taken over by Dr. Winthrop T. Talbot, a son of Dr. J. T. Talbot, dean of the Boston University Medical School, who, in 1884, moved the camp to Lake Asquam and renamed it Camp Asquam. It was through Dr. Talbot's effort and because of his enthusiasm, that the first Camp Conference and Leadership Institute was held in Boston, April 15, 16, 17, 1903. He conceived the idea and presented it at the Sixth Congress about Boys, conducted by the General Alliance of Workers with Boys, held November 5 and 6, 1902, in the Assembly Hall of the United Charities Building, Fourth Avenue and Twenty-Second Street, New York City, which resulted in the passing of a resolution authorizing the Camp Conference and the appointment of a committee, with Dr. Talbot as chairman, for its promotion. I shall refer to this important meeting in another chapter of this historical statement.

Edwin DeMerritte—1886.

New England, the birthplace of the organized

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camping movement, has contributed many outstanding leaders in camping, among whom is Edwin DeMerritte. In 1886, he founded Camp Algonquin which continued under his directorship until 1929—a continuous existence for forty years, and was at that time, the oldest existing private camp for boys. The camp was closed in 1929. Dr. DeMerritte established high standards in nature appreciation and Camp Algonquin was characterized by its emphasis upon the study of nature. One hour a day was given to that study. The camp was well equipped with a nature library, microscopes, herbarium, museum and a fine wild fern and flower garden. Valuable lists of the native flora and fauna were compiled by the boys. Dr. DeMerritte said, "A camp should be educational, not only in the development of character, but also in a close study of all that God created for our enjoyment."

For several years Dr. DeMerritte was my neighbor in Watertown, Mass., and his knowledge and love for nature he daily passed on to the boys and girls in the neighborhood, although he was nearing the age of ninety at that time—1933. For many years he taught at Chauncy Hall School, Boston, and later was principal of the Berkeley Preparatory School and when he retired he was the head of his own school. Dr. DeMerritte was the chairman of the section devoted to Private Camps at the Camp Conference held in Boston, in 1903.

At a testimonial dinner given Dr. DeMerritte in Boston, January 16, 1929, upon the occasion of his 83rd birthday, he said his ambition in life was "to reach boys through teaching; to mould them into men of stamina; men of character; to create in them a definite aim in life; to give them a conception of their Maker through an understanding of nature."

When asked to give his opinion regarding the future of camping for *The Camping Magazine*, he wrote an excellent article for the issue of June, 1929, from which the following is quoted:

"When the camp movement was first started, nearly fifty years ago, parents applied for a place for their boys in the few established camps. The camps then were in the hands of a few earnest men who aimed to give the boys a wholesome, safe and beneficial outing and hold them up to a standard which augured well for the future. Today, we go to the parents and seek enrollment of their boys for our camp.

"The ethics of the profession must be loyally lived up to if the future of camping is to be one of moral uplift instead of moral degeneration.

"The camp should be only large enough to enable the director to study each child, learn his strong and weak points and devise a means to strengthen the good and eliminate the bad.

"The future of the child is of paramount importance, a child received in camp is a sacred trust and must be so considered by the director.

"We camp directors have it in our power to elevate the standard of our nation. When so many parents are teaching their children (by their thoughtless example) to become law-breakers, some one must come to the rescue. We, as camp directors, can, without being personal, prove to the campers that national laws as well as camp laws are made for the good of all and that now is the time to lay foundations for loyalty, integrity, and respect for the rights of others.

"We can do much, if we act as a body, to elevate the standards of America by our work during the two months when we have the opportunity and are in contact with so many pliable minds."

These early pioneers builded better than they knew. To few men is given the joy of living long enough to see the fruits of their labor. George W. Hinckley, Ernest Balch, and Edwin DeMerritte are still living and although they have passed man's allotted time of three score years and ten, their interest in the education and the advancement of youth is undimmed and their satisfaction in seeing the wonderful growth of the camping idea must indeed be great.

Dr. C. Macfie Campbell, in a lecture given several years ago in Boston at the Lowell Institute said: "In our ordinary estimate of the personality of another we are not primarily concerned with the degree of his technical efficiency, with the breadth of his intellect and the penetrating quality of his thought; we are primarily more impressed by the dynamics of his personality, the influence which radiates from him, the feeling tone which seems to color his experience, the emotional reactions which occur from time to time, the sympathetic bond which he establishes or fails to establish with us, the affection or the antagonism or indifference which are subtly present even during the course of a fleeting interview."

The early camps were built around contagious personality rather than around expensive equipment and as one reads of the aims and ideals which motivated these pioneers, this

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February, 1935

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definition of personality given by Dr. Campbell can be well applied to them. What a rich inheritance has been handed down to their successors!

The aims and ideals of these camps of fifty years ago may be summarized as follows:

1. To restore those values of life which come from living in the great out of doors.
2. To find joy in the simplicity of living.
3. To develop a love of nature and a study of all that God created for our enjoyment.
4. To play the game for the fun of playing and not for awards given or public recognition.
5. To rationalize the recreative impulse so that it may be a carry-over into later life.
6. To enrich life through healthful and simple pleasures.
7. To expose boys to the sound principles of work being the law of life and the love of work being the joy of life.
8. To invest boys with responsibility, personally, for others and with others.
9. To show boys that honor cannot be bought but must be won; that manliness, justice, truth, conscientiousness, have their own reward.
10. To reach boys through teaching; to mould them into men of stamina and character; to create in them a definite aim in life; to give them a conception of their Maker through an understanding of nature.
11. To lay foundations for loyalty, integrity, and respect for right of others.

(To be continued)

The History of Organized Camping

Establishment of Institutional Camps

By

H. W. GIBSON
Past President, American
Camping Association

EDITOR'S NOTE.—This is the third of a series of articles by Mr. Gibson on the history of organized camping in America. The remaining chapters will be presented, one each month, in the forthcoming issues of THE CAMPING MAGAZINE.

CHAPTER III

Establishment of Institutional Camps

"Our boys and girls take to camp life as naturally as ducks take to water, and in the opinion of many, this kind of life, for a part of the year, has become almost a biological necessity. For untold generations sunlight and fresh air, woods, fields, lakes and mountains, have served as nature's background for development to make man, through contact with these natural agents, all that he is today."

Dr. Dudley Sargent.¹

Young Men's Christian Association Camps

Ever on the alert to take advantage of an opportunity for development of the mind, body, and spirit, the Young Men's Christian Association saw in this adaptation of life in the open to that of organized community outdoor living, a new way of approach to character building, alive with great possibilities.

Early in the summer of 1885, Sumner F. Dudley, a young business man, associated with his father and brother in the manufacture of surgical instruments, in Brooklyn, and a summer resident of East Orange, N. J., borrowed a tent, hired a boat, and gathered seven congenial Newburgh, N. Y. boys who belonged to the Y. M. C. A., for a camping trip to Pine Point on Orange Lake, about six miles from Newburgh. To this meagre equipment, however, were added his genial personality, unbounded enthusiasm, ardent love for out-of-door life, and the keen receptivity and impressionability of the boys—the essential elements for a successful camping trip.

In *The Watchman* of August 1st, 1885, at that time the official journal of the Association, Mr. Dudley describes this first camping trip

as follows: "I have just returned from an eight days in camp, conscious of having one of the most profitable times of my life; with me have been seven of the leading members of the Boys' Branch of Newburgh.

"Location, Orange Lake; name of camp, Camp Bald Head; because all but one member of the party had temporarily lost nearly all their hair from their heads; weather, delightful, just enough rain to add variety; fishing, very moderate; swimming, called for three times a day; health, good; accidents, none; appetite, ravenous; hearty, manly fun, any quantity; good nature, largely developed."

George A. Sanford, when General Secretary of the Newburgh Association in 1885, and who passed away January 13, 1934, at the age of 76, was the man who suggested to Mr. Dudley, the idea of taking a group of boys on a one-week camping trip. Mr. Sanford writes in *American Youth*, April, 1920, that the camp was called "Bald Head" for "reasons more hygienic than esthetic, as most of the boys had their hair closely cropped before starting for camp."

The second summer, Mr. Dudley's camping party numbered twenty-three boys and was located on Lake Wawayanda, N. J. In 1891 the campers increased to eighty-three and a new location was found near Westport, N. Y., on Lake Champlain. J. H. Worman, editor of *Outing*, a warm friend of Mr. Dudley, offered the use of part of his land. This offer was gladly accepted and the camp was permanently established. Mr. Dudley's camping experience evidently influenced him to give up business and enter the work of the Y. M. C. A. In 1887-88 he served the Orange, N. J., Association as General Secretary and then became a member of the Board of Directors, serving until his death, March 14th, 1897, at the age of 43. Mr.

¹ *Summer Camps*, Red Book Magazine. Introduction, 1923.

Dudley is buried in Roseville, N. J., and a pilgrimage to his grave is taken each year by representatives of the Y. M. C. A. Camps of New Jersey.

Mr. Dudley never married. Summer after summer he gave his energy unsparingly to his camp. At his death he left the entire camp equipment to the New York State Y. M. C. A. Committee. As a memorial to a life of unselfish devotion, the camp was named Camp Dudley. In 1934, the Golden Jubilee of the camp was celebrated, having been in continuous operation for fifty years, and is, therefore, the first and oldest existing organized camp.

From the seed sown by this young man in 1885 has grown a world-wide camping movement, reaching many thousand boys through Y. M. C. A. camps located in all parts of the world. The Associations in the United States and Canada conduct today, 1,234 camps with an enrollment of 134,593 campers and owning camp property valued at \$5,092,596, with an annual operating budget of \$1,012,200.

Spread of the Movement among Other Organizations

It was not until 1890 that the organized camp idea caught the imagination of leaders of boy life. There were a few Associations that conducted short-term camps or more strictly speaking, nomadic camps or camping trips. One such camping trip was managed by the Knoxville, Tennessee, Association, under the leadership of Dr. J. W. Stewart, July 11-22, 1887, but the record is very meagre and no doubt it was a hiking trip rather than an organized camp.

In 1894, the writer was elected a delegate from the Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Association, to the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the Young Men's Christian Association, held in London, England. Upon his return in June, from this memorable trip, he took a party of fifteen boys, members of the Lancaster Association on a camping trip to Schiebley's Grove, along the Conestoga Creek, near Lancaster, and spent two weeks in carrying out a regular camp schedule. Later the camp was moved to Mt. Gretna, Pennsylvania, and the name changed to Camp Shand in honor of the president of the Association. The camp has been maintained without a break in its existence since 1894, and

is, next to Dudley and Wawayanda, the third oldest Association camp.

Boys' Club Camps

The first Boys' Club to conduct an organized camp was the Salem (Massachusetts) Fraternity. This was in 1900. During July and August of that year, seventy-six boys were members of a seven-week camp, held at Rowley, Mass., and Hampton Falls, N. H. Mr. Herbert L. Farwell, who is still the superintendent of the Fraternity, was the leader of the camp. Mr. R. K. Atkinson, Director of Education of the Boys' Clubs of America, Inc., writes that the total number of camps conducted by Boys' Clubs, as reported in 1935, is 60, and the number of different campers attending these camps was 26,088. The property owned by the clubs and used for camping purposes is valued at \$1,508,377.

"Fresh-Air" Camps

Dr. Lloyd B. Sharp, in his book *Education and the Summer Camp, an Experiment*, traces the development of camping as a part of the social service work in New York City. He states that the first fresh-air home for New York City children was established in 1872 by the Children's Aid Society of New York on Staten Island. The word "camp" was not used in explaining these activities of the Society. Newspapers such as the *New York Times* and *New York Tribune* daily told the story of the venture, and money was given in sums which made it possible to turn the experiment into an achievement. Life's Fresh Air Fund was established August 11, 1887, and the Tribune Fresh Air Fund in 1888. In 1925 Dr. Sharp was appointed Executive Director of the Activities of Life's Fresh Air Fund, and directed the reorganization of the camps. "In the reorganization the word 'camp' replaced the term 'Fresh Air Farm.' Many policies were changed. The whole program was placed upon an educational basis and a broad program of camping activities was inaugurated."²

Boy Scout Camps

On September 23, 1910, a dinner was tendered to Lt. General Sir Robert S. S. Baden-Powell, K.C.B., by the Boy Scouts of America, at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York City. The

(Continued on Page 26)

² Lloyd B. Sharp. "Education and The Summer Camp." p. 11.

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History of Camping (Continued from Page 19)

writer was a guest at this dinner and heard General Baden-Powell, when he was introduced by Ernest Thompson Seton as "Father of the Boy Scout Movement," say "You have made a mistake, Mr. Seton, in your remarks to the effect that I am father of this idea of Scouting for boys. I may say that you are the father of it or that Dan Beard is the father. There are many fathers! I am only one of the uncles, I might say. The scheme became known at home, then I looked about to see what was being done in the United States, and I cribbed right and left, putting things into a book just as I found them."

At this dinner a beautiful red leather-bound volume entitled *Boy Scouts of America* was distributed. It was a handbook written by Ernest Thompson Seton, incorporating much of the material appearing in his *Birch Bark Roll*, and contained a chapter on "Camping" dealing more exclusively with camping trips rather than organized camping.

Scouting was looked upon as a program activity. In 1908 the writer wrote to General

Baden-Powell in London for his book *Scouting for Boys*, and received from him not only a copy of the book but also official badges and other material. Under the inspiration of this, "Scout-craft" was introduced as an activity in Camp Becket in the summer of 1909,² one year before the Boy Scouts were organized in America.

In 1911 the National Council of the Boy Scouts appointed an Editorial Board, consisting of William D. Murray, George D. Pratt, and A. A. Jameson, who prepared an official *Handbook* which included a chapter on Campcraft, which the writer had the honor of contributing.

At that time scouting was a craft rather than an organization, and in the first official *Handbook* it states that "the aim of the Boy Scouts is to supplement the various existing educational agencies, and to promote the ability in boys to do things for themselves and others. It is not the aim to set up a new organization to parallel in its purposes others already established. The opportunity is afforded these organizations, however, to introduce into their program unique features appealing to interests which are universal among boys. This method is summed up in the term Scoutcraft."³

Scoutcraft, true to the American habit of organizing, soon became a tremendous organized force with centralized control, and today has one of the most thoroughly organized camping departments in existence, under the capable leadership of L. L. McDonald, the National Director of Camping, with offices at 2 Park Avenue, New York City. Much attention is given to a definite camp leadership-training program for Scoutmasters and assistants.

Mr. McDonald writes that "the Chicago Camp, Owassippi, at Whitehall, Michigan, is the oldest of the permanent Council Camps operating under Council supervision on its own permanent camp-site. This camp was established in 1911, and D. W. Pollard was the Executive Director in charge. During the same year the Philadelphia Council, Boston, New York, Columbus, and other Councils were operating camps, and have carried on continuously an organized camping program since that time."

According to the figures given in Sargent's

² *Association Boys*, December, 1909, p. 314.

³ *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook* (1911), p. 3.

Summer Camps, up to March 30, 1935, the total number of 600 Boy Scout camps have a daily capacity of 60,000 boys; 55,526 acres is the total acreage for 292 camps reporting an equal total valuation of \$4,447,473.^a In addition to these permanent camps there are 2,000 to 3,000 Troops carrying on an independent organized camping program on a smaller scale, and upwards of 425,000 boys were actually enrolled as campers in some phase of the camping program for 1935.

The first Boy Scout camps with professional leadership on the cooperative plan could properly be recorded as of the year 1910, during which there were twenty odd Councils established.

Girl Scout Camps

Camps have always been recognized as an essential part of the Girl Scout program ever since its organization in 1912. In 1922 it was decided to charter the camps throughout the country, rating them on first-year development, second-year development, and so on. Definite standards must be met in all camps. Small unit camping has been developed to a high degree of efficiency. Mass camping is discouraged. Day camping is encouraged. Trained leadership is required. A country-wide national training program is carried out each summer. In 1934, 78 courses were given with an enrollment of 1,625 students. An international encampment is held annually at "Our Chalet" at Edelboden, Switzerland, the gift of Mrs. James J. Storrow of Boston. Camp Edith Macy, at Briarcliff Manor, New York, conducted by the National Girl Scout organization as a training center for leaders, is a model demonstration camp. A camp literature of exceptionally high quality has been developed, and a camp service department is maintained at the National Headquarters, 570 Lexington Ave., New York City. In Massachusetts, the former estate of the late Cornelia Warren, at Cedar Hill, Waltham, is used by the State Council as a camping area for unit camps; here scout activities, week-end trips, gypsy trips, and hiking, are popular outdoor activities. "The first camp was held in 1912 by the Savannah, Georgia, Girl Scouts. It was called Camp Lowland, and established by Juliette Low, founder of Girl Scouting. Total number of Girl Scout camps in 1935

^a Porter Sargent, *Handbook of Summer Camps* (1935). p. 157.

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was 984 and attended by 101,113 campers.

Camp Fire Girls

"The work and ideals of the Camp Fire Girls had its direct origin in the home, and later in the private camp, of Mrs. Luther Halsey Gulick on Lake Sebago, Maine. Here, meeting the needs of her own daughters, Mrs. Gulick worked out the beginnings of what was later, with some modification, accepted as the ritual and form of the Camp Fire Girls. The name of Mrs. Gulick's camp, "Wohelo"—which she had formed from the first two letters of each of the three words, Work, Health and Love—became the watchword of the new organization. On March 17, 1912, the manual which had been prepared was given to the public, hence that date is our birthday."

Janet L. McKellar of the National office, 41 Union Square, New York City, writes that the first camps of the Camp Fire Girls were conducted in 1914 by the Guardians' Associations of Chicago, Baltimore and Kansas City. These were attended by approximately 500. The number of camps in 1935 was 113 and 18,541 dif-

^a *Book of Camp Fire Girls* (1918). p. 9.

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ferent campers were enrolled. The total value of property and equipment of the camps is \$538,749.00.

Poetry, music, ceremony and ritual, color, and drama are used to express their ideas and ideals. Fire is the symbol of the organization, for around it the first homes were built. The Camp Fire Girls Camp program has in it the appeal of romance, beauty, and adventure in everyday life.

Y. W. C. A. Camps

The first Y. W. C. A. Camp was organized in 1874 by the Philadelphia Association. In a statement issued in 1934 by the National Board, is given the following information concerning this first camp or "vacation project" as it was called: "President Ulysses S. Grant officially opened the first summer vacation project for girls earning their own living just sixty years ago (August 4, 1874) when the Y. W. C. A. of Philadelphia opened "Sea Rest" at Asbury Park, N. J.

"This summer boarding and vacation house was for 'tired young women wearing out their lives in an almost endless drudgery for wages that admit no thought of rest or recreation.' Any young woman who was financially dependent on her own exertions and was of respectable character was eligible.

"The program of dedication was attended by many notables, including the President of the United States who gave the principal speech; the Honorable William S. Stokley, Mayor of Philadelphia, who presided; George H. Stuart and Bishop Simpson.

"Within the next ten years other vacation projects for young women were opened in Providence, R. I., Louisville, Ky., and Milwaukee, Wis., by the Y. W. C. A."

It is only recently that the Y. W. C. A. has given attention to girls of High School age through an organization known as the Girl Reserves. The total number of Y. W. C. A. camps, for girls and young women, is about 250 and the attendance average 100,000 each summer.

Under the leadership of Hazel K. Allen, progress is rapidly being made in administration and program-building. Miss Allen has written a book, *Camps and Their Modern Administration*, which will have a distinct influence on the development of both program and management of present and future camps of the Association. *Magic Casements* by Ruth Perkins is a chronicle of the development of a new kind of camp program, and *The Girls' Camp* by Abbie Graham, written from the point of view of a camp director, is a classic in camp literature.

A Camp School for Boys

The earliest record we find of a camp school for boys is that of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association, who conducted such a school on Commonwealth Avenue Boulevard, Boston, July 7 to August 25, 1909. Tents were pitched in this attractive location and sessions were held from 9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. daily, except Saturday and Sunday. The afternoons were spent in games, sports, and athletics, the boys returning to their homes for the night. William L. Phinney was Principal of the school and the camp features were under the supervision of Don. S. Gates. Saturdays were devoted to hikes, trips to historical places, and field days.

"Camping as a function of the public school system had its beginning in 1912" says Dr. Marie M. Ready in a bulletin issued by the Office of Education of the Department of the Interior.⁷ "At that time the Visiting Nurses' Association in Dubuque, Iowa, established a summer camp for malnourished school children, and the camp was conducted by that Association in cooperation with the Board of Education of that city . . . Camping for normal children, as a part of the public school system, had its beginning about 1919. At that time Camp Roosevelt was established as a part of the public school system of Chicago, Ill."

In *Camping* for November, 1928, is an article

⁷ Porter Sargent, *Summer Camps* (1935). p. 109.

by B. S. Graves of Highland Park (Michigan) High School, explaining the Highland Park plan. The city owns two camps—Camp Wallace for boys and Camp Wasaquam for girls—at Platte Lake, Honor, Michigan. The Recreation Commission pays 50% and the Board of Education 50% in financing the camp, in addition to a small fee paid by each camper. Full credit is given in the fall for work done at Camp.

Camps are maintained or directed by Boards of Education in six cities: Chicago, Dearborn, La Crosse, Oshkosh, West Allis (Wisconsin), and in Jersey City.¹

Camps by Other Organizations

Adequate information concerning camps such as the 4-H Club Camps, Y. M. H. A. Camps, Woodcraft Camps, and Church Camps is not available. Extravagant figures of camp enrollments, number of camps, and financial values have been published but are difficult to verify.

Conclusion

The institutional or organizational camps have for years been regarded as places where needy boys and girls could be cared for during the hot summer months at small expense, and while camps of such character have existed for more than five decades, there has been a decided change in the purpose and character of these camps in recent years. They are now recognized as great laboratories where life situations are studied, field work and research work carried on, and serious projects undertaken. Many of the organizational camps have developed camping to a fine art. Some educators have prophesied that municipalities and schools will include camping as a part of their educational program, and thus establish a year-round school project.

The greatest contribution that organizational camps have made to the camping movement is that of trained leadership and the establishment of standards. Through the holding of institutes, conferences, seminars and discussion groups, the old traditional type of camping is gradually being replaced by a new camp procedure, which calls for individual counseling and guidance in dealing with boys and girls, the abolishment of awards and honor systems, and the introduction of a system for self-improvement, personality enrichment, and individual achievement.

(To be Continued)

¹ Porter Sargent, *Summer Camps* (1935), p. 110.

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The History of Organized Camping

The Private Camps

By

H. W. GIBSON
Past President, American
Camping Association

EDITOR'S NOTE. This is the fourth chapter of Mr. Gibson's work on the history of the organized camp movement. The succeeding chapters will appear, one each month, in THE CAMPING MAGAZINE.

CHAPTER IV

"Camp is a bit of life in the open, where children are to gather educational experience from Nature; a place where they may listen to the silence of the stars and perhaps hear God speak. A place where they may catch His whisper in the still forest and see His hand in the faint traceries of a wild flower's petal. Make sure it is like that and the uniform will not matter."

—ANGELO PATRI.

The private camp came into being because of two groups of people—educators and parents—who sensed a need for something to counteract the unwholesome tendencies of social changes which were affecting the natural growth of boys and girls during the vacation period. We have seen how educators such as Mr. and Mrs. Gunn, Ernest Balch, Edwin DeMerritte, George Hinckley and Sumner Dudley endeavored to meet this need by supplying during the school vacation an outdoor environment where energy could be applied in a productive manner, where the idleness of vacation could be turned into time for constructive occupation. Institutional education had left the summer void. The origin of school vacations is obscure, but is evidently sprang from the necessity of making a living between school terms. The modern tendency is toward longer vacations which means a leisure that may become either an asset or a liability.

Parents who, like Dr. and Mrs. Luther H. Gulick, believed that man biologically was a product of the open and that camping was the most natural as well as the oldest way of living, formed the second group. The delightful ex-

periences of the Gulicks at their camps on the Thames River, Conn., in 1888, and at Lake Sebago, Maine, became known to others, with the result that children of other parents soon were included in the happy cooperative group.

The private camp, which, defined, is a camp conducted by an individual or a group of individuals as a private project and having no organic relationship with any institution or organization, did not exist in large numbers until after the beginning of the twentieth century. We have mentioned in former chapters Camp Gunnery (1872), Dr. Rothrock's North Mountain School of Physical Culture (1876), George W. Hinckley's camp (1880), Ernest Balch's Camp Chocorua (1881), Camp Harvard (1882), Camp Dudley (1885), Dr. DeMerritte's Camp Algonquin (1886), Camp Shand (1894)—eight camps born in twenty-two years, only two of which lived to enjoy a robust existence, Camps Dudley and Shand. Between 1890 and 1900 the following camps according to the findings of Porter Sargent in his *Handbooks on Summer Camps*, came into being.¹

The first private camp in New York State was established in 1890 by Professor Albert L. Fontaine, head of the Department of Science of the Rochester Free Academy, at Tichenor's Point on Canandaigua Lake, attended by forty boys. The second year, 1891, a separate girls' camp was conducted, which continued for five seasons. In the *Review of Reviews*, June, 1900, is an article by Professor Rouillion which is illustrated by thirteen half-cuts of camp activities, including a cut of Camp Shand which was established by the writer in 1894. He states that the "Nature Science Camp" conducted by Professor Fontaine had in 1900 rounded out its first decade and was in a flourishing condition. "It is under the direction of an enthusiastic educator assisted by a corps of college

¹ Porter Sargent. *Handbook on Summer Camps*. 1935. p. 85.

men—specialists in their particular lines of botany, geology, taxidermy, etc. The camp is conducted on a military basis. The aim of the camp as expressed in the camp prospectus is 'to provide an ideal outing for young people; that the student should have a royal good time; that his health may be substantially improved and that his love of nature may be cultivated.' Each morning at eight o'clock the campers fall in on the color line; the various announcements for the day are made, after which on each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday the campers report to their instructors and start on their trips, returning to camp at eleven o'clock. On Wednesday and Saturday mornings a lecture takes the place of the regular expedition for the day. No text books are used." The charge was nine dollars a week and the camp period covered the months of July and August.

John M. Dick, who served as a Y. M. C. A. secretary at Plympton, gave up his position in Association work and established in 1891 Camp Idlewild at Silver Lake, Mass., then in 1894 moved the camp to Lake Winnepesaukee, N. H. In 1921 the camp was purchased by C. A. Roys of the Teela-Wooket Camps. It is the oldest private camp for boys which has been in continuous existence.

The first Catholic camp for boys was established in 1892 by the Marist Brothers of Saint Ann's Academy, New York City, and was called Saint Ann's on Lake Champlain.

The year 1892 witnessed the birth of the first camp for girls, Camp Arey at Arey, N. Y. It was originally established in 1891 by Professor Arey of Rochester as a Natural Science Camp, but it was in 1892 that girls were accepted for four-week periods. In 1912 Camp Arey was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Andre C. Fontaine and conducted exclusively for girls.

Judge A. S. Gregg Clarke, who established the Keewaydin Camps in 1893, had been a pupil at the Gunnery School and got his inspiration for camping there. The Keewaydin Camps had no headquarters or permanent camp until 1897 when Camp Kahkou was established at Cancomgom Lake, some forty miles north of Moosehead Lake, Maine, the first of a series of permanent camps known as the Keewaydin Camps and now conducted by Mr. John H. Rush.

In 1895 Dr. Roland J. Mulford, formerly

Headmaster of the Ridgefield School, started Camp Choconut in the mountains of northern Pennsylvania, which is now conducted by Mrs. George L. Winlock and her son, George L. Winlock, Jr.

The first salt-water camp for boys, Pine Bluff Camp, was established the same year on Long Island, N. Y., by Dr. Henry S. Pettit of Brooklyn who conducted it until his death in 1932. The camp is now directed by Mrs. Pettit and Frank B. Ward.

The second salt-water camp was established in 1896 by the State Y. M. C. A. Committee of Massachusetts and Rhode Island on Crotch Island, Friendship, Maine, and was named Camp Durrell in honor of the chairman of the Committee, Oliver H. Durrell of Cambridge, Mass. This camp continues as a private camp, Camp Wapello.

In 1895 Dr. Edward S. Wilson, who received his training and inspiration in camp work under Dr. Talbot, established Camp Pasquaney on Newround Lake, N. H., which is still a successful camp. Upon the death of Dr. Wilson in 1933, E. W. C. Jackson became the director of Pasquaney.

Dr. C. Hanford Henderson founded Camp Marienfeld at Chesham, N. H., in 1896. Dr. Henderson, in speaking before the First Camp Conference in Boston in 1903 (three decades ago) stated

"If the history of boys' summer camps should ever be written adequately I suppose we should find that the beginners in the movement went into it with very different ideas and with very different aims to carry out. I think some of us were attracted by the belief that if we had the boy twenty-four hours we could do something with him; that we should not be defeated in many of the little particulars that we *are* defeated in when we have him from only three to four hours per day. I think some of us, teaching in institutions where curriculum was somewhat rigid, had the very natural feeling that if we could have the freedom of the camp to carry out our own ideas, we could accomplish something that would be valuable. I think some of us were very much struck with the fact that in well-to-do families especially, if there happened to be only one son, or if the country home happened to be isolated, the summer became a time when the boy practically spent his days in the companionship of servants and stablemen, and that he should occupy the long days of summer in a more profitable way. I think in the

(Continued on Page 30)

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on the phone when they return from a trip and report any discoveries they have made. He is always anxious to learn if the beaver are at work on new dams, or of the location of wolf packs, of the number of moose, deer, and bears in the various localities, and of the condition of the portages, camp-sites and shelter huts. He frequently makes a request for suggestions as to how his staff of rangers may help to make Algonquin Park more attractive to our campers. He has placed at our disposal, the shelter huts which are scattered throughout the Park, and encourages our cooperation in the building of new cabins in out-of-the-way places. The ranger-reports which are made by the campers and staff at the Saturday night council-ring, prove an incentive to make careful observations while out on a canoe trip. Last season one of our canoe-trip counselors supervised the painting of a large map of Algonquin Park, ten by twelve feet in size. It hangs in the Ahmek dining pavilion and will be used to show the routes taken by the various trips. Before a trip leaves camp, the members will outline their proposed route by means of a ribbon and thumb tacks. On their return they will indicate on the map any new fishing grounds or other places of interest they have discovered.

A good counselor appreciates the value of organizing the members of the party so that each camper is assigned to some special responsibility. If the trip is to run smoothly, there must be a division of labor in making and breaking camp and in portaging. A just assignment of duties and cooperation in their performance are essential for the greatest progress in character training. The campers soon learn that there is much to be gained by the faithful

discharge of their individual responsibilities. Each day they become more proficient as they master unaccustomed tasks. The natural shirker finds difficulty in resisting the group pressure, and provided the counselor in charge and his assistants, have lived up to their opportunity, every member of the party will have learned the value of cooperative living. Furthermore, such a canoe-trip experience will result in a growth of confidence, dependability, resourcefulness, and a greater sensitiveness to the finer things of life.

History of Camping

(Continued from Page 19)

early days very few men went into the camp scheme with the thought it could be made a source of money profit and this very fact added to the ideal character of the enterprise. We started out with this thought—the camp idea is that every boy should be strong and beautiful and accomplished and good. I have come to feel that the summer camp is the place not to improve ideals in boys—not to do this and that which we might feel to be educationally desirable—but that it is especially a great opportunity to help a boy to himself develop habits which are wholesome."

Dr. Henderson had a vision of the possibilities of the organized summer camp, and in his camp program laid the foundation upon which the educational program of the progressive camp of today is built.

Professor Loui Rouillion of Columbia University established Camp Penacook at Sutton, N. H., in 1895. Since 1905 this camp has been conducted by Mr. R. B. Mattern.

In 1898 Dr. W. A. Keyes established Norway Pines at West Point, Maine, the pioneer private salt-water camp on the Maine Coast which is still under his leadership.

Greenbrier, the first camp in the South, was established in 1898 by Dr. Walter Hullehen and is today one of the largest camps in the Southland. It is located at Alderson, West Virginia, and James C. Carter is now the director.

It was not until 1900, however, that the organized camp idea caught the imagination of men and women interested in children and youth, and it received serious attention. From 1900 to 1910 one hundred and six camps were started, thirty one of which were for girls. Until

1902 only two girls' camps had been established—Camp Arey (1892) and Camp Redcroft (1900). The latter camp was conducted by Mrs. Oscar Holt who in 1900 took some girls as summer boarders and called her cottage Redcroft; then after two years decided to entertain only small boys, thus originating Mowglis which was the pioneer camp for younger boys. Mowglis is now owned and operated by Col. and Mrs. Alcott Farrar Elwell.

In 1902 Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Cobb, teachers in the Moses Brown School at Providence, R. I., established Wyonegonic for girls, on Moose Pond, Denmark, Maine, which has developed into one of the largest groups of camps controlled by one family in the country. It consists of three units for girls, three units for boys, a camp for adults and the Denmark Inn for guests. The Cobbs are assisted by their sons Roland, Richard, and Philip, and their daughter Elizabeth, in the management of the camps.

Laura I. Mattoon, a teacher in a private school in New York City, founded Camp Kehonka on Lake Winnepesaukee, N. H., in 1902. Miss Mattoon, a pioneer in progressive education, introduced many innovations in program procedure which have been adopted as standards in numerous camps. Miss Mattoon is a leader of national distinction, having guided the destiny of camping associations over many turbulent waters. Her genius and organizing ability, winning personality and never-failing humor have been most valuable in the development and stabilization of the camping movement.

Helen F. Mayo and the late Elizabeth M. Moody established Camp Moy-Mo-Da-Yo at North Limington, Maine, in 1907, the first girls' camp in Maine south of Sebago Lake.

The name of Gulick is outstanding in educational and camping circles and has become indelibly associated with several of the pioneer movements in the development of America's greatest undeveloped resource, the leisure time of her people. Dr. and Mrs. Luther H. Gulick, after camping with their children for a period of years, established in 1910 Camp Sebago-Wohelo in Maine, now called The Luther Gulick Camps and conducted by their son, J. Halsey Gulick. Mrs. Gulick, with her distin-

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guished husband, the late Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick, originated the idea and founded the organization of the Camp Fire Girls. The poetry, symbolism and system of honors worked out in the camp became the basis for the ritual of the organization. Mrs. Gulick was the first president of the National Association of Directors of Girls Camps and also served as president of the New England Section. Her son, Halsey, is now serving as president of the New England Section. An excellent statement of the life and work of Mrs. Luther Gulick is printed in *Camping*, August 1928.

"The Upper Connecticut Valley has become a great center of camps for girls, with an association of its own and an annual inter-camp frolic which has become famous. In 1905 the first camp of the Upper Connecticut Valley group was opened by Mrs. E. L. Gulick whose husband was at that time a master in Lawrenceville School. It was begun at their summer home, probably influenced by the work of Mrs. Gulick's sister-in-law, Mrs. Luther Gulick. The name, Camp Aloha, harks back to Hawaii where the Gulick ancestors had been missionaries and the later offshoots sugar planters. For three years the daughters of Mrs. Luther Gulick attended this camp before she opened her permanent camp on Lake Sebago. Counselors from Aloha have gone forth and established Camps Abena, Tahoma, Tall Pines, Weetamoo, Pukwana, Vagabondia, Marbury, Neshobe, and other now well known camps.

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"The Hanoum Camps were established in 1909 by Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Farnsworth of Teachers College. The Turkish name of the camp recalls the Near East missionary ancestors of Dr. Farnsworth, a brother of Mrs. E. L. Gulick.

"The pioneer salt-water camp for girls was Quantset at Orleans, Mass., which Mrs. E. A. W. Hammett opened in 1905.

"In the Poconos, Susquehannock was established in 1905, and in 1907 Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Siple opened the Oneka Camps, the first girls' camps south of New York. Then camps spread down to the Southern Appalachians and the Land of the Sky where, as early as 1898, Greenbrier had been established by Dr. W. Hullihen.

"The pioneer western camps were Dr. William J. Monikaw's Camp Highlands and Dr. John P. Sprague's Camp Minoqua, established in Michigan in 1904. Indianola, the first camp in Wisconsin, was opened in 1907 and Mishawaka, the first camp in Minnesota, in 1909. The first boys' trail trip through the Yellowstone Park was organized in 1907 by Mr. Charles C. Moore. It was the next decade before the real summer camp reached the Pacific Coast."

Much more than the allotted space would be

* Porter Sargent. *Handbook of Summer Camps*. 1935. pp. 94-95.

required to tell of numerous other outstanding private camps conducted by men and women of high ideals who are motivated by a great desire to serve youth.

During the decade from 1900 to 1910, 75 private camps were established for boys and 31 camps for girls; a total of 106 private camps, of which 73 are still operating. In 1915 there was a total of 211 camps listed, all of which were private—118 for boys and 93 for girls. In 1924, camps of all classifications had increased to 1248, of which 713 were private camps and 535 organizational camps, and in 1933 there were 3485 private and organizational camps listed—according to the statistics printed in Porter Sargent's *Summer Camps for 1933*. An increase of 491% during the decade from 1915 to 1924 and only 179% during the ten years, from 1924 to 1933, indicates that a stabilization of the movement had begun. In 18 years, from 1915 to 1933, according to latest figures given by Porter Sargent, there was an increase of 1551% in the number of camps established.

Ninety per cent of the camps in 1923 were located in New England and although that proportion is steadily decreasing, New England still leads in the number of private camps, having a total of 618. New York State follows with 236 private camps, Pennsylvania 109, California 56, New Jersey 56, North Carolina 45, Wisconsin 45, Michigan 38, Colorado 32, Minnesota and Iowa each 16, with the other states having a scattering group of from 1 to 12 private camps each.

As long as the private school exists, so long will the private camp exist. The private camp is free from superimposed direction by those "higher up" and consequently enjoys full liberty to engage in educational procedures which are sometimes prohibited in camps dominated by organization executives.

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The History of Organized Camping

Origin of Conferences and Association Work

By
H. W. GIBSON
Past President, American
Camping Association

EDITOR'S NOTE. This is the fifth installment of Mr. Gibson's work on the history of organized camping. The first chapter was published in the January 1936 issue and each issue thereafter has contained a chapter. The series will be concluded in the June issue.

CHAPTER V

"Why have men persistently led the collective life? Because no principle is more basic than desire for greater gain with least effort;—men through combined actions can accomplish what individually is impossible, they can get more as members of an organization than they could as individuals."

"Effective relation among men is secured only through organization. Without it, effort is spasmodic and results are not had."

—Enoch Burton Gowin.

The need for an organization, through which the camps could cooperate in a democratic manner, to relate existing situations, gather and distribute information, establish standards as well as safeguard the principles in camping developed by the pioneer camp directors, also afford a fellowship, became apparent as the number of camps increased. This need was brought to the attention of camp-minded men by Dr. Winthrop M. Talbot, director of Camp Asquam, in an address which he delivered at the Sixth Congress about Boys, conducted by The General Alliance of Workers with Boys, held November 5-6, 1902, in the Assembly Hall of the United Charities Building, New York City. A copy of the program of this meeting is in my possession. After considerable discussion, a resolution was adopted authorizing Dr. Talbot to promote a Camp Conference and he later, was appointed as chairman of the committee.

First Camp Conference

Under Dr. Talbot's leadership, the first camp

conference of which there is any record, was held in Boston, April 15, 16, 17, 1903. The conference was held at the invitation of the Twentieth Century Club of Boston, at their rooms, 2 Ashburton Place, now the site of the Boston City Club. It was my privilege to attend this gathering and from the call for the conference and its program, which I have before me, the following information is gleaned: About 100 men and several women,—for girls' camps had not yet been generally accepted—were present from the Eastern States. Dr. Talbot was the secretary of the Conference and its promoting genius. Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson of Cambridge, the famous scholar and author, was Chairman and introduced the speakers — among whom were Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D.D.; Prof. Ira N. Hollis of Harvard; Robert A. Woods of South End House; Dr. C. Hanford Henderson, formerly Principal of Pratt Institute; and E. M. Robinson, the International Secretary of Boys' Work of the Young Men's Christian Association.

In addition to the general sessions, including a supper served on the opening evening at a charge of fifty cents a plate, there were sectional meetings for Institution Camps, Henry B. Sawyer, chairman; Y.M.C.A. and Boys' Brigade Camps, Dr. G. L. Meylan, chairman; and Private Camps, Edwin DeMerritte, chairman. Among those who participated in the discussions were Mr. Virgil Prettyman, Dr. Elias G. Brown, Dr. Reuben Kidner, a Mr. Campbell from England, Dr. John B. May, Edward H. Mays of Camp Dudley, Franklin P. Speare and Robert Treat Paine of Boston. In reading over the report of this first conference, printed in "How to Help Boys," Vol. III, Number 3, July 1903, one is impressed with the emphasis placed upon methods and the eagerness with which the men were willing to share their ex-

periences.

As I recall, Mrs. Elizabeth Ford Holt, who established Redcroft for Girls in 1900, was one of the two women who were present and participated in the discussions. It may be that this Conference was a deciding factor in causing Mrs. Holt to change her camp in 1903 from a girls' to a boys' camp, now known as Camp Mowglis, and directed by Col. Alcott Farrar Elwell, who for twenty years was associated with Mrs. Holt. A Mrs. Barrows who conducted a family camp in New York State, was the other woman present at the Conference.

A feature of the Conference held more than thirty years ago, was an exhibit which consisted of photographs of camps and their activities, sketches, wood carving and carpentry work, natural history specimens, new types of tents, cots, cooking utensils and camping gadgets. John M. Dick was the Chairman of the Exhibit Committee.

At this Conference a rather loose organization was formed, known as the General Camp Association, to which were referred several motions for further consideration. In the Private Camp Sectional meeting, there was considerable discussion given to the advisability of forming an organization for private camps as a part of the general organization. The general opinion seemed to be that it was best to let the matter rest until the general organization was sufficiently strengthened to permit of separate sections.

This little acorn of conferences planted in 1903 has grown to a mighty oak, spreading its branches over every part of America and even to foreign lands.

The following quotations taken from the printed report of this Conference reveal how far thinking were those who attended:

"The introduction of study as part of the camp experience would add immensely to their value. This study would naturally take on some other shape from that in the regular preparatory school. The lines along which this study might fall would be in the natural sciences—in botany, in forestry—or even in the crafts."—Prof. Ira N. Hollis.

"It takes time to train a boy in habits, and character after all is a bundle of habits."—Virgil Prettyman.

"There should be for every boy a few days when he should be an absolutely free subject. Many a boy desires the most blissful sensation on earth—the occasional bit of freedom, when the whole soul

demands freedom."—Thomas Wentworth Higginson.

"I know camps where men do things they would not permit boys to do for a moment. They separate themselves from boys. They adopt rules and regulations for themselves that they do not have for boys. Doesn't that bring a bar between them and the boy?"—Dr. Winthrop T. Talbot.

"Summer vacations ought to be a great deal longer than they are. The schools ought to open later in September than they do, and every facility ought to be given for this open air life (camp) in summer."—Robert A. Woods.

The First Camp Directors Association

Camps multiplied so rapidly by 1910 the camping movement attracted nation-wide attention. Alan S. Williams, publicity manager of the Sportsman's Show held in the old Madison Square Garden, New York City, called together at the 1910 Show, directors of organization and private camps to discuss the taking of a forward step in camping. Mr. Williams, in *Camps and Camping* for 1921, writes as follows:

"The Camp Directors Association of America is not the result of an accident. Its conception and embryo existence was definitely planned. . . . In the autumn of the year 1910 we organized the Sportsman's Show and it occurred to me that a harmonious note in the scheme would be an exhibit of boys' camps. My acquaintance with directors of organizational and private camps was such that I won their attention and despite doubts and disinclination on the part of some of them, their acceptance of my proposition was finally obtained.

"From my first conception of the feature I had a vision and a design to make it come true, from which I never faltered: it was to lead in the creation of an organization just such as now exists in the Camp Directors Association of America and the National Association of Directors of Girls' Camps. In the birth of the second named Association the Biblical scheme of creation was carried out with fidelity, because as Eve was created from one of Adam's ribs, so in this case the girls' camps organization is but a highly developed rib from the masculine parent body."

This statement identifies Alan S. Williams as the "father" of the Camp Directors Association.

Mr. Williams issued an invitation to the directors of camps to meet at the 23rd Street Branch of the Y.M.C.A., New York City, on February 14, 1910, for the purpose of discussing the project of participating in the Sportsman's Show to be held in the fall. Fourteen

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directors responded and, largely because of the service rendered by Irving G. McColl and Mr. Williams, twelve camps held a very creditable exhibit at the Show. The temporary organization formed on February 14 became a permanent one, with the following officers: President, Charles R. Scott, Newark, N. J., director of the Y.M.C.A. Jersey Boys' Camp; Vice Presidents, A. A. Jameson, New York City, Camp Dudley, and Dr. Elias G. Brown of Adirondack Camp; Secretary, Irving G. McColl, New York City, of Camp Kineo. The Association continued to participate in the Sportsmen's Show until 1915, when the Show ceased to hold exhibitions.

Purpose and Membership

"The Association was organized to promote friendly social relations between the directors of summer camps, and the improvement of camping in general, by discussions and the interchange of experience."

The active membership was open to "any bona fide male director of a recognized private summer camp," and the associate membership "open to any one who is vitally interested in some official and responsible capacity with the camping movement, such as directors of Boy Scout camps, Y.M.C.A. camps, etc." Honorary membership was conferred upon "such individuals as may have rendered services of conspicuous and exceptional value to camping." The dues were three dollars a year.

The second president of the Association was Dr. Elias G. Brown, 1911-12; the third, J. Clark Reed, 1912-13; the fourth, Dr. George L. Meylan, 1914-15; the fifth, Edward M. Healy, (who passed away shortly after he was elected), 1916; the sixth, Dr. Paul C. Kyle, 1916-17; the seventh, Herman C. Beckman, 1918-19; the eighth, Harry W. Little, 1919-20; the ninth, Frank L. Bryant, 1920-21; the tenth, Philip D. Fagans, 1921-22; the eleventh, Harvey C. Went, 1922-23; and the twelfth, Dr. W. A. Keyes, 1923-24. The secretary of the Association for a series of years was Eugene H. Lehman, and his enthusiasm and efficiency contributed much to the life of the organization.

The enrollment of members was, at first, very slow: in 1910, 11 members; in 1915, 34; in 1919, 54; in 1923, before the merger with the National Association of Directors of Girls' Camps, 32.

The National Association of Directors of Girls' Camps

In 1916, six years after the men's organization came into being, the National Association of Directors of Girls' Camps was founded, at a meeting held at Columbia University, New York City, the object being "to awaken an appreciation of the importance of the service that is being rendered by the Summer Camps to American girls in the realm of physical, mental and moral education; to encourage the maintenance of camps so equipped and supervised that they can offer to girls a happy, wholesome and profitable summer where work and play may blend in a harmonious development of mind and body; to cultivate cordial intercourse among camp directors, and to promote the discussion and exchange of experiences; to approve and recommend courses of action with reference to camp problems."

The first President, and really the founder of the Association was Mrs. Charlotte V. Gulick, who served in the office from 1916 to 1918. The Secretary was Mrs. Frances H. White. The second President was Mrs. Charles H. Farnsworth, 1918-19; the third, Mr. Eugene H. Lehman, 1919-20; the fourth, Mrs. Edward L. Gulick, 1920-21; the fifth, Dr. J. Wilford Allen, 1921-23; and the sixth, Dr. William G. Vinal, 1923-24. In 1921 Miss Laura I. Mattoon was elected Secretary.

Provision was made for the formation of

Sections and the first Section organized was the "New England Branch of the General Association of Directors of Girls' Camps," in 1921, with Dr. John B. May as President; Mrs. Charlotte V. Gulick, Vice President; Miss Elinor C. Barta, Secretary; and Mrs. C. A. Roys, Treasurer. The annual fee was fifty cents. The object was "to promote a closer union among New England Camp Directors by means of social intercourse and friendly cooperation, and to maintain the highest standards and ideals in camps."

The second group to organize was the New York Section, National Association of Directors of Girls' Camps, and their constitution was adopted April 15, 1922. The object of the Section was similar to that of the national association. The officers were, President, Miss Agnes R. Wayman; Secretary, Miss Agatha Deming; Treasurer, Mrs. Belle Hirsch.

Dr. Charles W. Eliot Makes Statement

It was at the annual meeting of the N.A.D.G.C. held in Boston, January 21, 1922, at the Hotel Bellevue, when Dr. Charles W. Eliot, President Emeritus of Harvard, in an address given that afternoon, made the statement which has become famous: "The organized summer camp is the most important step in education that America has given the world." It was my privilege to follow Dr. Eliot on the program, and among my notes taken from his address I find another statement which he made: "One of the most valuable contributions of camp life is the training of the powers of concentration and of accurate inference. One of the greatest and most lamentable defects in the educational system found in our schools and colleges is the lack of training that forms habits of seeing straight, describing straight, and correct inference. Camp life can overcome this defect."

Dr. J. Willford Allen presided at this meeting and Miss Laura I Mattoon was the Secretary. It was reported that on January 21, 1922, the association had 115 members, and three months later (April 22) the membership had increased to 166 and 10 waiting to be voted upon. Also, a Chicago Branch was organizing and a request for a California Branch came to the Secretary.

In 1923 the Pennsylvania Section of the N.A.D.G.C. was organized with Ernest W. Supple, President; Miss Corrinne B. Arnold,

(Continued on Page 23)



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Heavens! What Water!

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Newark, N. J.

May, 1936

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The History of Organized Camping

(Continued from Page 21)

Vice President; Harry Davidson. Secretary-Treasurer; Members-at-Large, H. J. Wychoff and Mrs. Blanche D. Price.

That same year the Southern Appalachian Section of the N.A.D.G.C. was formed with Mrs. Henry N. Carrier, President; Miss Belle A. Roxby, Vice President; Miss Mary H. Turk, Secretary; and Edward S. Allis, Treasurer. The Middle West Section was also formed in this year with Miss Sara G. Holiday, President; Miss Esther G. Cochran, Vice President; and Mrs. L. A. Bishop, Secretary-Treasurer.

This remarkable growth of the Association of Directors of Girls' Camps was largely due to the genius and organizing ability of the Secretary, Laura I. Mattoon.

It must not be forgotten that while the directors of girls' camps were making conspicuous progress, the Mens' Association was still in the game, and in 1921 a second men's group was formed in Chicago known as the Mid-West Camp Directors Association, with J. P. Sprague, President; Major Warren E. Dewey, Vice President; and W. L. Childs, Secretary-Treasurer; and 32 charter members.

The Amalgamation of Associations

With so many different organized groups of camp directors at work, the need for better cooperation through consolidation was recognized by many of the leaders in all groups, and in 1924 a meeting was called for that purpose which resulted in the amalgamation of the Camp Directors Association of America, the National Association of Directors of Girls' Camps, including the Sections, and the Mid-West Camp Directors Association, at a joint session held March 14, 1924, at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, the same to be known as the Camp Directors Association. The following officers were elected: President, Dr. George L. Meylan; Vice Presidents, H. W. Little and Miss Eleanor Deming; Secretary-Treasurer, Laura I. Mattoon. Dr. Walter A. Keyes, the retiring President of the Camp Directors Association of America, the men's organization, in his address given on this historic occasion, likened the amalgamation to a marriage and a happy wedding party. He said, "If the bride were not so numerous the presid-

ing groom would insist on implanting the customary kiss upon her forehead. Alas, dear girls! You who number several hundred rosy-lipped swan-divers, now the brides of these ruddy-faced hell-divers on my left, are too much for a man of five and fifty sun-cooked summers to trifle with emotionally." Then in a more serious vein Dr. Keyes stated that

"if this organization is to accomplish great things its members must pull together toward a common goal. Let us focus our minds, consciences and labors upon our boys and girls, and, forgetting jealousies, selfishness and greed, let us try to make camping what we want the parents to think it is. . . . Let us, as camp directors, not hesitate to attempt any task because it is great, or new, or difficult. . . . We can make this organization a power felt 'round the world if we take for our motto for the coming year 'For the Youth of America.'"

The newly-elected Secretary-Treasurer, Laura I. Mattoon, former Secretary of the National Association of Directors of Girls' Camps, then presented suggestions for the future from the experiences of the past, which just bristled with workable ideas. They included a "house cleaning among our present members to bring us all up to the same standards we demand of new camps; the need of a centrally located headquarters with a permanent, full-timed executive secretary; counselor service; the publishing of a handbook, periodicals and special reports; a clearing house for camp problems; affiliation with other associations; advancing necessary legislation; developing the camping idea in other countries" and her closing paragraphs sounded the key note of the new organization:

"The future worthiness and importance of this Association depend upon the kind of programs we prepare, and the success of this program, whether broad in its scope or not, rests upon the contribution and spirit of each member. Therefore, let us all give to the Association those qualities that we strive unremittingly to develop in our campers;

"*Good fellowship* which demands sympathy; *Cooperation* that embodies service; *Team Work*, that calls for energy expended for the good of many; *Individual Responsibility* for the success of any project; *Self-Control*, which is first aid to harmony; and, finally, a *Satisfactory Enjoyment* in all that we undertake."

What a magnificent set of standards was bestowed upon this union of associations by the God-mother of organized camping, Laura I. Mattoon! It is unfortunate that the founda-

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History of Organized Camping

(Continued from Page 23)

tion builders and their seasoned advice are so soon forgotten by those who follow after. The present is the child of the past and it is good procedure to weigh carefully the experiences of the past in order to avoid repeating mistakes.

Statement of Basic Standards Adopted

It was at this epoch-making meeting that "A Statement of Basic Standards for Organized Summer Camps" prepared by the New England Section of Directors of Girls' Camps, was presented by Mrs. Dwight L. Rogers, and adopted. These standards must motivate the camps of today if the future of organized camping is to produce satisfactory results.

A decade has passed since the union of association in 1924. To give a summary of the work of the Association since that year would require pages, therefore, a brief statement of important events must suffice.

The Fall Meeting of the new Camp Directors Association, held November 13-14, 1925, at Cedar Hill, Waltham, Mass., was conspicuous for the adoption of two important motions: first, the election of Dr. Charles W. Eliot, to Honorary Membership, the first Honorary Member of the new association;; second, the endorsement of the New England Section's new Camp Directors' Bulletin, which was eventually to be turned over to the national association after the publication became self-supporting. At this meeting Dr. William G. Vinal succeeded Dr. Meylan as President, Eugene H. Lehman and Miss Corrinne B. Arnold were elected Vice Presidents, and Miss Mattoon re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer. The membership totalled 365 with 161 applications awaiting approval.

A Code of Ethics Adopted

At the convention held in 1926, the Code of Ethics was adopted and Eugene H. Lehman has the distinction of being its author. Numerous revisions were made and its efficacy has been an open question.

The Chicago Convention in 1926 elected H. W. Gibson as President and he continued in office for three terms. In 1929 Dr. John P. Sprague was elected the fourth President and served for two years.

The White House Conference on Child Health and Protection, called by President

Herbert Hoover, assembled in Washington, D. C., November 19-22, 1930, with 3000 men and women in attendance. The Camp Directors Association officially participated in the Conference and was assigned to Section 111 in Group G, Youth Outside the Home and School, under the general heading of Education and Training. The chairman of Group G was James E. West and the sub-chairman on camping was Dr. Elbert K. Fretwell.

The interest aroused by this conference caused a desire on the part of camping interests to enlarge the scope of the Camp Directors Association, and in response to this desire a special committee was appointed by President Sprague to confer with other organizations regarding the advisability of creating a new Council or General Agency on Camping. Several meetings were called in New York City with Dr. Fretwell as chairman. The diversity of opinion and lack of agreement displayed at these meetings made impossible any change which would be agreeable to all parties concerned and the matter was "laid on the table."

National Office Opened

At the Washington, D. C. meeting in 1931, Frank S. Hackett was elected President and the answer to Miss Mattoon's suggestion made at the amalgamation meeting in 1924, that the association have a centrally located headquarters with a permanent full-time executive secretary came when at this meeting it was decided to open such an office. Miss Mattoon announced that she was unable to continue as Secretary-Treasurer and H. W. Gibson was prevailed upon by the nominating committee to take up the responsibilities of this position. Under the leadership of President Hackett, the national office was opened at 11 Beacon Street, Boston, as a recognition of New England's contribution to organized camping and its geographical location in the camping area. The office was continued in Boston until April 1, 1932, one year after the opening, and then moved to New York City. By vote of the annual meeting held at Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania, March 5, 1932, Major R. F. Purcell became the Secretary-Treasurer upon a non-salary basis and Miss Emily H. Welch was elected President, the first woman to serve in that office since the union of the association in 1924.

About this time tinkering with the Constitution became almost an obsession and threat-

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ened the very life of the organization. Those who attended the Washington convention will never forget the "wash line" of tinkered constitutions which Miss Mattoon flung to the breeze at the business session. George Bernard Shaw said that the sport of Americans was adopting constitutions and then spending their time revising them.

The annual meeting held at Montreat, N. C., in 1933, elected Major R. F. Purcell as President, and the national office continued for another year at the Hotel Commodore, New York City. The name was changed to the Camp Directors Association of America and the association incorporated at the annual meeting held in New York in 1934. At this meeting, Herbert H. Twining was elected president of the association. The financial condition of the organization made it necessary to close the national office. Unfortunate dissensions over legislative matters caused several of the Sections to withdraw and the membership dropped to a low level. The office was moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, the home of the new president and all operating expenses reduced to the lowest possible sum.

At the Cleveland convention in 1935, the name was again changed to the American Camping Association, Inc., and under Mr. Twining's administration, a new policy was adopted whereby the association returned to its original plan of membership being initiated in the Sections, thus abolishing individual membership in the national organization. Membership in a Section automatically made one a member of the American Camping Association and the national body now is composed of member Sections, and elected delegates from the member Sections meet annually for the transaction of business. A Board of Directors carry on the work of the Association between annual meetings. This new plan met with universal approval. The Sections increased from four to eleven, and the original purpose of the founders of the Association was restored.

In 1936 the annual meeting was held in Boston. The work accomplished during the year was of such an encouraging character that Mr. Twining was prevailed upon to serve for a third term as President. The annual report showed a steady increase in Section memberships, a balanced budget, and marked progress made in enlarging the scope of the Association's work.

The History of Organized Camping

Genesis of a Camp Literature

By

H. W. GIBSON
Past President, American
Camping Association

EDITOR'S NOTE.—This is the sixth chapter of Mr. Gibson's work on the history of the organized camp movement. The seventh installment will appear in the first issue in the autumn, the October issue.

CHAPTER VI

"Histories make men wise: poets, witty: mathematics, subtle: natural philosophy, deep: morals, grave: logic and rhetoric, able to contend."

—BACON

PREVIOUS to 1911 no printed literature treating technically the subject of organized camping was available. Several articles on the subject had appeared in magazines and are referred to in preceding chapters of this historical statement. Books on the general subject of "camping-in-the-rough" could be purchased, but no book dealing specifically with the organized camp was listed until the book *Camping for Boys*, written by the author of this historical statement, appeared in 1911 (printed by the Association Press, New York). It was a hand-book telling how to select a site, erect suitable camp buildings, insure proper sanitation, suggesting rainy day games and activities, etc. It was used and recommended by the Boy Scouts of America. This was the pioneer book in the development of a camp literature, and the edition was sold within a short period of time.

In the same year appeared Harper's *Camping and Scouting*, an outdoor guide for American boys, edited by George Bird Grinnell and Dr. Eugene L. Swan. The first part of the book dealt with scouting, which was beginning to capture the imagination of our people. Part IV was written by Dr. Swan, at that time director of Pine Island Camp, and incorporated in the ten chapters devoted to boys' camps his own experiences. Being a physician, he gave valuable suggestions regarding health, sani-

tation, food, dietetics, hiking, clothing, games. Part VII consists of two chapters on Camping for Girls and is entitled to first place in the list of printed chapters on the conduct of a girls' camp.

In 1915 Porter Sargent's *Handbook of the Best Private Schools* appeared, which included the first historical account of the summer camp, a critical analysis of the camps in the United States and Canada and also a tabulated list of camps. It was not until 1924, however, that Sargent issued his first survey of summer camps—*A Handbook of Summer Camps*—which has continued to be printed annually until 1935. In 1936 a smaller book was issued containing only 400 of the so-called better camps. In addition to the classification and tabulation of camps and directors, each volume contains much valuable material pertaining to camp activities and general information, historical and philosophical, about the organized camping movement.

Influenced by the glamour of the World War, the Century Company printed in 1917 *The Boys' Camp Manual, a Handbook of Military and All-Round Training*, by Charles K. Taylor, director of Camp Penn, the "under military age camp" near Plattsburg. This book which is devoted almost exclusively to military training cannot really be classified among books dealing with the all-round program and procedure of organized camps.

Summer in a Girls' Camp by Anna Worthington Coale came from the press of the Century Company in 1919. The book is made up of articles previously printed in *St. Nicholas* and *Outlook*.

In 1920 Girl Scouts, Inc., issued the first technical book on girls' camps, entitled *Campward Ho, a Manual for Girl Scout Camps*. Many excellent publications have successively been printed by this organization and their

contribution to the literature of organized camping has been of inestimable worth.

The First Publication

The Publication Committee of the National Association of Directors of Girls' Camps, consisting of Eugene H. Lehman, chairman, Dr. J. Wilford Allen, Miss Anna W. Coale, Mrs. Charles A. Farnsworth and William G. Vinal, believing that there should be a publication "through which a point of contact might be established between camp directors for exchange of experiences and introduction of new ideas or between parents and the guardians and mentors of their children during a portion of the most impressionable and formative period of their life," in 1921 sent out a questionnaire to the directors of every known camp in the United States asking for information from which data could be compiled which would be helpful in the executive and financial administration of summer camps.

The response was agreeably surprising and through the generosity of the American Sports Publishing Company of New York the first issue of *Camps and Camping* appeared in June, 1921, edited by Eugene H. Lehman. It contained 166 pages of special articles devoted to all phases of organized camp life, also a list of presidents of the Camp Directors Association, the National Association of Directors of Girls' Camps, the Code of Ethics, the Constitutions of the National Association and the New England Branch of Directors of Girls' Camps, and a classified index of boys' and girls' camps. It was a noble venture and continued to be published annually up to 1931 inclusive, when the publication was discontinued for economic reasons. The eleven annuals would find the making of a bibliography of the articles a matter of great satisfaction as well as a valuable contribution to the history of the movement.

The First Monthly Publication

Spalding's Camp News, "devoted to the interests of organized camps for boys and girls" made its first appearance in March, 1922 as a private contribution of A. G. Spalding & Brothers for "the purpose of providing a medium whereby the interests of the groups connected with camps can be advanced." The May, 1925 number was the last issue published.

Laura I. Mattoon, the versatile genius of the movement, in the 1924 edition of *Camps and Camping* wrote a number of "Suggestions for the Future from Experiences of the Past," among which is the following: "We (the C.D. A.) should publish our own handbook, periodicals and special reports, and not be connected with any one business concern. * * * These publications could be a source of income to our Association."

Other Books on Camping Appear

In 1923 the writer published *Camp Management, a Manual for Camp Directors*, a large book profuse with illustrations and containing twenty chapters dealing with many subjects pertaining to the management of a camp. The edition was distributed in many countries in addition to the United States and Canada.

The *Redbook Magazine* in 1933 sent Henry Wellington Wask, associate director of its Camping Department, on a trip visiting some two hundred New England Camps to observe the actual operation of camps and discover how the magazine could be of service to camp directors and parents. The results of this "Inward Voyage" were printed in a book, *Summer Camps*, published by the magazine and distributed gratuitously. The introduction was written by Dr. Dudley A. Sargent. A second book by Mr. Wask was published by the *Redbook Magazine* in 1925 under the title of *The Camping Ideal, a New Human Race*. This second volume gives a brief survey of the camping movement in the United States with particular references to organized cultural camps in the Atlantic and Midwestern States. Mary Roberts Rinehart wrote the Greeting for this book. The third volume of this series was published in 1926, the title being *More About Summer Camps, Training for Leisure*. Gifford Pinchot, then Governor of Pennsylvania, wrote the Greeting. In the three years of travel and observation, Mr. Wask visited 412 organized summer camps.

L. H. Weir, field secretary of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, in 1924 compiled a *Manual on Organized Camping* which was published by Macmillan Company. Mr. Weir made an extensive survey of organized camping and this book contains much valuable information, especially concerning the problems of the large camps conducted by organizations.

The Camping Magazine

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
AMERICAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED

BERNARD S. MASON, Ph.D., Editor

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No. 6

The *Library on Camping*, twelve little volumes, each dealing with a particular subject of organized camping, was published by the writer in 1927. Sets of this Library have found their way to nineteen different countries.

The first attempt at a scientific treatment of the summer camp was *Camping and Character*, a camp experience in Character Education by H. S. Dimock and C. E. Hendry, published by Association Press in 1929. This book established a standard in presenting the educational aspect of organized camping.

The Prize Book

The Department of Education of the *Redbook Magazine* in 1930 offered a prize and book publication for a constructive and creative contribution to the theory and practice of organized camping. The prize offer was stimulated by the recognition of the fact that the rather meagre supply of such literature was a handicap to the professional progress of this important branch of education. A Committee of Award for the prize was appointed, consisting of Professor Elbert K. Fretwell, Teachers College, Columbia University, Chairman; Dr. John M. Brewer, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University; Dr. Mark A. May, Department of Education, Graduate School, Yale University; Dr. J. C. Elson, Department of Physical Education, University of Wisconsin; Dr. Jay B. Nash, Department of Physical

Education, School of Education, New York University; and H. W. Gibson, at that time President of the Camp Directors Association. After reading and re-reading the many manuscripts submitted, the Committee by a majority vote awarded the prize to Bernard S. Mason of the Department of Sociology, Ohio State University. Mr. Mason's study, *Camping and Education, Camp Problems from the Campers' Viewpoint*, was printed in book form in 1930 by The McCall Company of New York. This book was the first interpretation of camp from the campers' viewpoint.

Education and the Summer Camp by Lloyd Burgess Sharp was published in 1930 by the Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University. This study analyzes the summer camp as it affords desirable situations for educational outcomes. The book traces the development of camping as a part of the Social Service work in New York City.

The First Sixteen Books

The first books, which laid the foundation of a literature on organized camping, chronologically arranged are: H. W. Gibson, *Camping for Boys*, 1911; Grinnell & Swan, *Harpers' Camping and Scouting*, 1911; *Sargents Handbook*, 1913; Charles K. Taylor, *The Boys Camp Manual*, 1917; Anna W. Coale, *Summer in a Girls' Camp*, 1919; Girl Scouts, Inc., *Campward Ho, a Manual for Girls' Camps*, 1920; *Camps and Camping*, a series of annuals edited by Eugene H. Lehman, 1921-1931; H. W. Gibson, *Camp Management*, 1923; Henry Wellington Wack, *Summer Camps*, 1923; L. H. Weir, *A Manual on Organized Camping*, 1924; Henry Wellington Wack, *The Camping Ideal*, 1925; Henry Wellington Wack, *More About Summer Camps*, 1926; H. W. Gibson, *Library on Camping*, 1927; Dimock and Hendry, *Camping and Character*, 1929; Bernard S. Mason, *Camping and Education*, 1930; Lloyd Burgess Sharp, *Education and the Summer Camp*, 1930.

This chapter is not a book review or a bibliography on camping, but a historical statement of the beginnings of a literature on organized camping, therefore only those books which deal specifically with the subject of organized camping are listed. Many articles on the subject appeared in magazine, monograph and various publications during the interim

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History of Camping

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from 1911 to 1930. Since 1930 a number of excellent volumes on organized camping have come from the press and the end is not yet. A very complete bibliography of the summer camp is printed in the 1935 edition of Sargent's *Handbook of Summer Camps*.

Establishment of an Official Journal

When an organization reaches a certain age and attains a national standing the logical move forward is the establishment of an official journal. In the first number of *The Camp Directors Bulletin* appears this statement:

"At the fall meeting of the Camp Directors Association held November 13-14, 1925, at Cedar Hill, the Massachusetts Girl Scout Headquarters at Waltham, Mass., the New England Section announced the plan of publishing a Bulletin for Camp Directors as their contribution to the organized camp movement. The publication is to be self-supporting and ultimately turned over to the National Association. A motion was carried endorsing the plan and at a later meeting of the New England Section the following Editorial Board was appointed: Mr. H. W. Gibson, editor-in-chief, Boston, Mass.; Miss Anna Worthington Coale, New York City; Mr. Eugene H. Lehman, Tarrytown, N.Y.; Dr. William G. Vinal, Syracuse, N.Y.; Mr. Clarence E. Allen, Newton, Mass.; Miss Laura I. Mattoon, Wolfeboro, N.H. It will be the policy of the Editorial Board to make the Bulletin a medium of communication between the men and women who are conducting camps. It is to be "our very own" paper rather than a supplement to something else, however good that something else may be. It will be devoted to the best interests of organized camping. There will be ten issues a year (the months of July and August omitted) and it is planned to feature some phase of camp life each month. The Bulletin will be mailed free to each member of the C.D.A. The expense of publication is met by the liberal patronage of our advertisers. May we have the enthusiastic support of every member of the C.D.A."

This first number of the Bulletin, which appeared in February, 1926, was only a four-page affair. The April, 1926 number appeared with a new heading—*Camping*—and had eight pages. H. W. Gibson was editor-in-chief and A. E. Hamilton the managing editor, Mr. Ham-

ilton continuing in that capacity until January, 1927, when the management was again assumed by the Editorial Board.

"At a meeting of the New England Section on April 10, 1926, the motion was carried that the Bulletin be turned over into the hands of the Executive Committee of the National Association, to be presented as a gift at the next general meeting in New York, April 23 to 26."

The publication continued under the name of *Camping* until January, 1930, when the name was changed to *The Camping Magazine*. The magazine has had three editors—H. W. Gibson, 1926-1932; Frederick L. Guggenheimer, 1933-1934; and Bernard S. Mason, 1935—the present incumbent.

The launching of the official journal of the Association upon the sea of journalism lured others to launch similar magazines, the first of which was *Camp News*, published by the Correct Printing Company, Inc., New York, and edited by Ben Solomon, the first number of which appeared in June, 1926. In November, 1927, this name was changed to *Camper and Hiker*, and later changed to *Camp Life*. In May, 1935, another magazine devoted to camp management and leadership was launched and named *Camping World*, published by Camping World, Inc., and edited by L. Noel Booth. The voyage thus far has been a turbulent one for all the publications, including the official journal of the American Camping Association, Inc., but a rough voyage is a test of endurance.

Author's Note

Many persons have furnished the material used in this thesis, to whom the writer acknowledges his indebtedness and also desires to express his grateful appreciation and thanks.

No one is more conscious of the inadequacy of this very brief and incomplete statement than the writer. The difficulty in securing accurate historical data has revealed to him the need of the appointment by the American Camping Association of a Historian to whom all important literature, legislative action pertaining to organized camping, dates of meetings, outlines of leadership training courses, etc., should be sent and filed so that the progress of the movement may be historically recorded. The recently announced gift of

(Continued on Page 32)

¹ (NOTE)—It was at this meeting that Ex-President Charles W. Elliot of Harvard was unanimously and enthusiastically elected the first honorary member of the C.D.A.

² *Camping*. Vol. I. March-April, 1926. p. 2.

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History of Camping

(Continued from page 28)

\$100,000 by Mr. Chrysler for use in research work and maintenance of the Association for a period of five years is the dawn of a new era in organized camping, which will establish a desirable national standing of the movement at this period of the Association's progress.

At least three additional chapters are necessary to make this historical statement more complete: (1) Inauguration of Leadership Training Conferences and Courses; (2) Spread of the American Organized Camping Movement in Europe; (3) A Complete Bibliography with Study Assignments. These chapters are in process of compilation and will be published in coming issues of the magazine.

"Modern history," writes Julian Hawthorne, "tends more and more to become philosophic; to be argument and an interpretation, rather than a bald statement of facts. The facts contained in our best histories bear much the same relation to the history itself that the flesh and bones bear to the person who lives in and by them. The flesh and bones, or the facts, have to exist; but the only excuse for their existence is that the person may have being or that the history may trace a spiritual growth or decadence." This modest contribution of facts is made with this thought of Julian Hawthorne in mind. We leave to others the philosophy and interpretation of the American organized camping movement.

The Pioneer

by ARTHUR GUITERMAN

(as recited by A. V. Pulling at the Boston Conference)

Long years ago I blazed a trail
Thru lovely woods unknown till then
And marked with cairns of splintered shale
A mountain way for other men.

For other men who came and came
They trod the path more plain to see.
They gave my trail another's name
And no one speaks or knows of me.

The trail runs high, the trail runs low
Where wind flowers dance or columbine
The scars are healed that long ago
My axe cut deep on birch and pine.

Another's name my trail may bear
But still I keep in waste and wood
My joy, because the trail is there,
My place because the trail is good.

The History of Organized Camping

Leadership Training

Conferences and Courses

By

H. W. GIBSON

Past President, American
Camping Association

Editor's Note.--This is the seventh installment of Mr. Gibson's History of Organized Camping. In the December issue he will discuss the spread of the American camping movement to Europe.

CHAPTER VII

"Leadership is a magic word—a marvelous attainment—but the price you pay for it is tremendous. The splendid thing about it is that the more you pay the more you get. The more you give the more you have left. Pay out a small price, and the returns are meagre, but pay the supreme price of leadership and your reward is genius and immortality."

—George H. Knox.

VERY early in the history of the organized camp movement it was discovered that a trained leadership was essential to the accomplishment of permanent results. In fact, the Young Men's Christian Association outlined a course in camping in 1902 under the guidance of E. M. Robinson, which was issued in pamphlet form and used in leadership training by a number of Associations conducting boys' camps. It was not until 1919, however, that the training of leadership was considered with any degree of seriousness.

First Training Conference

The first training conference for camp counselors was organized by the National Association of Directors of Girls' Camps in 1919 at Camp Tahoma, Pike, N. H., Miss Anna Worthington Coale, director, and was a Swimming and Canoe Conference. In 1920 this Conference was conducted at Dr. John B. May's camp, Camp Winnetaska, at Ashland, N. H. Miss Marjorie Camp, now Associate Professor, Department of Physical Education for Women, State University of Iowa, attended this Conference and was on the teaching staff of the conferences at Camp Quinnibek, Fairlee, Vermont, from 1923 to 1926. Miss Camp has contributed technical skill and contagious enthusiasm in the development of these training conferences. She also served as Chairman of the Committee on Standards and Certificates which, in 1933, presented at the national meeting of the Camp Directors Association at

Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania, a comprehensive report of the Committee, including minimum standards for Counselor Training in General Leadership, Horsemanship, Camp Craft, Nature Study, Handcraft, Dancing and Dance Correctives. These standards are printed in *The Camping Magazine*, March, 1932.

In 1929 the Camp Directors Association revised its Constitution and in it we find the following plank:

Article II—Object

(d) To promote the training of Directors and Counselors by conferences, institutes, and by any appropriate methods.

Previous to the adoption of this plank, conferences were conducted by the Association for the training of counselors through the appointment of promoting committees. Nearly every convention program included addresses and discussions upon subjects relating to the training of counselors, but very little had been accomplished which may be truly labelled as academic.

Training Courses Introduced in Colleges

The Department of Secondary Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, sponsored the first Camp Leadership Course in 1920, under the direction of Dr. Elbert K. Fretwell, who writes under the date of September 22, 1936, the following:

"Last year (1935) was our Seventeenth Annual Camp Leadership Course, though earlier than that time we had held a course for Boy Scout camp counselors. In fact, the demand for the first of these annual conferences of which last year's was the seventeenth, grew out, I think, of the requests stimulated by the earlier Scouting camp course that we had given. The first formal request came from the Association of the Directors of Girls' Camps and chiefly through the person of Dr. Eugene H. Lehman.

"I suppose the Department of Secondary Education here at Teachers College should be given credit for sponsoring the course since I, so far as the college is concerned, sponsored it and was and

am now a member of the Secondary Education Department.

"The tuition fee was then and has been ever since \$10. This course could (and can) be taken for college credit of one point or without credit. Of course, those taking it for credit had to do a certain amount of assigned reading, written work, and take an examination. The number enrolled was about 150 in the first course. The maximum registration for any year in any one course was 347.

"We have always followed the plan of general meetings followed by departmental meetings. The plan set in the beginning has continued the same throughout."

Dr. Fretwell has made many valuable contributions to the wise guidance of the camp movement because of his vision, idealism, and keen analytical ability. He may well be classified as the sage of the movement.

In 1920 the Nature Lore School was opened by Dr. William G. Vinal at his Camp Chequeset, Wellfleet, Massachusetts. Six days were devoted to training for nature service. In a folder announcing the Seventh Annual Gathering, the purpose of the School is stated as follows: "To train for nature service—the *Nature Counselor* for the summer camp; the *Nature Guide* for recreation centers and municipalities; the *Nature Teacher* who wishes to enrich her program; and the *Nature Supervisor* who wishes to become acquainted with the latest contributions to the nature movement." Dr. Vinal, the director, was assisted by a large staff of men and women of experience in teaching and research work. The fee for one week was \$35.00. "Cap'n Bill," as he is affectionately called by his host of friends, has done more than any one man to arouse a real love of nature among directors and counselors, and due to his enthusiasm, programs of compelling interest in nature have been introduced in hundreds of well-conducted camps.

Conference Increase

In 1924, when the National Association of Directors of Girls' Camps and the Camp Directors Association of America were amalgamated, the C.D.A. continued to develop the training courses. Four Training Conferences were promoted in 1925, according to the report of the secretary, Laura I. Mattoon: Swimming and Life Saving; Canoeing; Camp Craft; and Nature Lore. These Conferences were for the most part self-supporting. In June, 1927, six courses were presented, including the above four groups and a new School of Horsemanship

given at the Teela-Wooket Camp, Roxbury, Vermont, under the direction of C. A. Roys, and a new Counselor Training Institute conducted by Marjorie Bouve of the Bouve School of Physical Education at Camp Quinnibek. Standards were adopted and to students who successfully passed these courses a certificate was awarded; for certain additional work an emblem was given. The circular also states that "any college or school of physical education directing courses for camp leadership may obtain copies of these standards, provided they furnish a list of approved instructors."

At the national meeting of the Camp Directors Association held at Waltham, Mass., November 13-14, 1925, considerable time was devoted to the discussion of a more extensive and comprehensive training program. The president, Dr. Vinal, called attention to the need of a "university" conducted by the C.D.A., where directors and counselors might learn by theory and practice the art of camp management and leadership.

Standard Courses Created

In order that a standard course in counselor training be established and maintained, the following resolution was adopted at the national meeting of the C.D.A., held in Philadelphia, in 1927:

"That the General Conference Committee formulate a national course for the Training of Counselors. This course to be available to colleges and universities and to Sections. Such a course to have national certificates be given to those who qualify according to the national standards."

During the author's presidency of the National Association in 1928-1929, research work and projects were assigned to each Section. To the Southern Section was assigned the task of creating curricula of a course in camp management for directors, which was efficiently done and presented at the Atlantic City meeting in 1929 by the chairman, Col. L. L. Rice. This course was printed in *The Camping Magazine*, July, 1929.

Curricula for the Training of Counselors were also presented at the annual meeting in Atlantic City, Mar. 8-10, 1929, by a committee under the chairmanship of Rosalind Cassidy, Mills College, California, and published in *The Camping Magazine*, April, 1929. This topic was

(Continued on page 30)

Children's Plays

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The History of Organized Camping

(Continued from page 19)

assigned to the Pacific Section of the C.D.A. as a project study and the Curricula presented have sufficient vitality to serve as a base for present-day curriculum construction.

Committees on Education and Research Appointed

At the national meeting of the C.D.A. held in Chicago, February 27-28, 1930, the subject of leadership training was discussed and the name of the General Conference Committee was changed to "the Education Committee," with three sub-committees: 1. Research. 2. Camp Leadership Courses in colleges and schools of physical education. 3. C.D.A. Training Conferences. Herbert H. Twining was appointed chairman of the new Education Committee and also of the sub-committee on Research; Miss Sara G. Holiday (now Mrs. J. P. Sprague) was made chairman of the sub-committee on Camp Leadership Courses; and Dwight L. Rogers, Jr., chairman of C.D.A. Conferences. This action was the beginning of a more serious approach to the study of leadership training, and under Mr. Twining's guid-

ance culminated in the establishment of a \$100,000 grant by the Chrysler Corporation to the American Camping Association (formerly the C.D.A.) for research work. Mr. Twining in June, 1936, became the Executive Director of the Chrysler Camping Fund.

A Committee on Education and Research was appointed at the Boston Convention, March 5-7, 1936, "for the purpose of studying the camping situation as it affects outcomes in the lives of students at the colleges and universities, and to suggest subjects for theses on camping to those seeking a Ph.D. degree."

Counselors Handbooks Prepared

A Counselor's Handbook was prepared by Miss Verree Weber in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Education at Mills College, California, in June 1930. It was printed and used in the counselor training course at Mills College.

Splendid work was accomplished by the Sections in leadership training, notably the Pacific Section which not only conducted successful training conferences but published in 1932 a Handbook for Camp Counselors, edited by Rosalind Cassidy, chairman, and Homer Bemiss, executive.

The Southern Section conducted a ten-day Camp Counselor Training Institute at Blue Ridge, N. C., for three years, beginning in 1932, and also sponsored a five-year research project on "The Behavior Change Inquiry in Southern Camps" in co-operation with members of the faculty of the Y.M.C.A. Graduate College, Nashville, Tenn. In 1933 the Section issued *A Camp Counselor's Manual*, edited by Walter L. Stone and C. Walton Johnson.

The New York Section presented a report at the Washington Convention, March 5-8, 1931, on "Qualifications for a Camp Director," prepared by a committee with Emily H. Welch as chairman, which was a treatise on the qualifications that a person who wished to enter the profession of camp director should have, although the material is equally applicable to all camp directors. This report is obtainable from the New York Section and is printed in full in *The Camping Magazine*, April, 1931.

Sara G. Holiday, chairman of the sub-committee on Counselor Training Courses in Colleges and Schools, submitted a report at the Washington meeting which outlined a set-up of camp courses, showing how each college department could contribute to such a course instead

of the camp course being fostered in one department only, and that largely of skills. This report may be found on page 11, Vol. III, No. 6, *The Camping Magazine* (March, 1931).

Cooperation of Colleges

Colleges were now recognizing the profession of camp director and of counselor by providing courses similar to the plan inaugurated at Columbia University in 1920. In 1922 Boston University, School of Education, opened a course in Camp Management and Practice under the direction of Dean Arthur H. Wilde and the direct leadership of Charles N. Lamprey.

Dr. Vinal in 1928 made a compilation of colleges and schools which were conducting counselor training courses. This list included:

New York University, New York City; University of State of New York; Pennsylvania State College; Teachers College of Columbia University, New York City; Yale University New Haven; State College, Ames, Iowa; School of Applied Science, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio; University of Iowa; Goucher College for Women, Baltimore, Md.; University of Chicago; University of Wisconsin; University of George Washington, Washington, D. C.; Mills College, California; Highland Park High School, Detroit; Detroit Teachers College; Bouve School, Boston, Mass.; Chicago Normal School of Physical Education; Northwestern University; Slippery Rock State Normal School, Pennsylvania; Ohio Wesleyan; and Boston University. In 1931 the list was increased by the following colleges and universities: Howard University, Washington, D. C.; Brenau College, Gainesville, Georgia; University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.; Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa; Hood College, Frederick, Md.; Smith College, Northampton, Mass.; International Y.M.C.A. College, Springfield, Mass.; Y.M.C.A. Graduate School, Nashville, Tenn.; Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; Ohio State College, Columbus, Ohio; Bacone College, Bacone, Oklahoma; Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y.; Skidmore College, Saratoga, N. Y.; Barnard College, New York City; Russell Sage College, Troy, N. Y.; Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa.; College of Industrial Arts, Denton, Texas; Florida State College for Women, Tallahassee, Florida; Municipal University of Wichita, Wichita, Kansas; Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science, Lansing, Mich.; University of Oklahoma, Norman, Okla.; Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater, Okla.; Oklahoma College for Women, Chickasha, Okla.; Mass. State College, Amherst, Mass.; University of Texas, Austin, Texas; Cathedral College, New York City; Western Illinois State Teachers College, Macomb, Ill.; State Teachers College, Harrisonburg, Va.;

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Washington State Normal School, Ellensburg, Wash.; State Teachers College, Fairmont, West Virginia; Y.M.C.A. College, Chicago, Ill.; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

The Cleveland Camp Institute conducted by the Group Work Course, School of Applied Social Science, Western Reserve University, and the Cleveland Camp Council, was started in 1926 at the Harkness Camp near Willoughby, Ohio, with Henry M. Busch as director. The motivating spirit of this Institute is W. I. Neustetter.

Training Conferences and Institutes have been conducted by the American Red Cross, Camp Fire Girls, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Councils of Social Agencies, Woodcraft League, and many church organizations with satisfactory results. Space does not permit evaluation of these courses other than to say that excellent work has been accomplished by these organizations through their insistence upon counselors doing work in a serious way.

A New Approach to Training

A new approach to the training of leadership was the Camp Institute launched by the Y.M.C.A. College at Chicago, April 4-7, 1930. One

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hundred and fifteen persons attended, representing fifteen states from Massachusetts to California. "Character Education in the Summer Camp" was the general topic of discussion. The purpose of the Institute was to develop summer camp educational philosophy, processes and methods. Prof. Hedley S. Dimock, Charles E. Hendry, Ruth Perkins and Roy Sorenson were the leaders. The Institute is held annually and the findings are in published form.¹

Individual camps conduct courses for older campers who desire to become counselors. This is a most effective process and is destined to become of more general practice. Many well organized camps prepare handbooks for counselors and hold pre-camp training conferences. Laura I. Mattoon introduced a sub-counselor training group at Camp Kehonka in 1925, which included "girls over sixteen years of age who seem qualified for present and future leadership in work with girls, in camps or in camp-like activities elsewhere." Miss Mattoon in 1928, while Secretary-Treasurer of the C.D.A., issued a booklet on "Qualifications of a Camp

Counselor." The seven pages contain the basis of the kind of leadership which must make up the camp staff.

In 1934 a Workbook for Camp Counselors and Directors was edited by Jackson R. Sherman, Marjorie Hillas and David K. Brace. A staff of twenty-seven contributed articles dealing with many phases of organized camping, with assigned questions to be answered by students and also reference material for further study. This is the first contribution to the provision of a text-book for use in college courses on camping.

Eugene H. Lehman in 1931 made a study of the Camp Directors' Training, which is published in *Camps and Camping*, 1931.² A questionnaire was mailed to every camp director whose name and address could be secured. It is interesting to note that 534 of the camp directors completed a high school course and 17 withdrew before graduation. Of the number of these high school graduates who continued their academic training through the various stages of college level, 298 held one degree, 57 two degrees, 8 three degrees, 2 four degrees, and that 78 did not complete a college course. It is noteworthy that the leaders of private camps continued their schooling much longer than the leaders of organizational camps; for only seventeen per cent of those who conduct boys' and girls' private camps are non-college graduates, while fifty-six per cent of the directors of organizational camps are non-college people.

Whither?

The question has been asked whether camping will be truly creative or will it become a trailer of educational philosophy?³ Dr. George L. Meylan, an experienced teacher and camp director, writes "the progress of camping as an educational movement depends upon the professional training and attitude of the director and counselor." The next decade will furnish the answer to the above question.

² Lehman, Eugene H. *Camps and Camping*, 1931, p. 18.

³ Ward, Carlton Edward. *Organized Camping and Progressive Education*, p. 170.

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¹ Prof. Hedley S. Dimock, George Williams College, Chicago, Ill.

The History of Organized Camping

Spread of the American Camp to Other Lands

By

H. W. GIBSON
Past President, American
Camping Association

EDITOR'S NOTE.—This is the concluding chapter of Mr. Gibson's excellent work on the history of organized camping in America. The series began in the January 1936 issue and has continued throughout the year with the exception of the October issue.

CHAPTER VIII

The summer camp with its International campfires of Friendship may yet become the training center in world cooperation, the place where high-minded youth may be marshalled for worthy social ends and the cultivation of world brotherhood among all people, everywhere.

EVERY age presents some mark of progress in the art and habit of living. In our own age such progress is found in the fact that people have moved out of doors. Living out of doors in an organized way for boys and girls began in America in 1861 when Dr. Gunn laid the foundation of what is known as the organized camp and the story of its spread and its capture of the youth of other lands like a romance.

Students from foreign countries who were attending American colleges and universities visited American organized camps for boys and girls during the summer vacations, some of them serving as counselors, and they became impregnated with this new camp idea. Upon returning to their native land, they introduced it to youth who readily accepted the new American way of living out of doors, which resulted in many camps being organized according to New World standards but blended with the best of the Old World traditions.

The Spartan System of Education

If we go back far enough in the history of education it will be discovered that there is similarity between the education of Spartan youth and the program carried on in the modern progressive organized camp. This fact is clearly proven in an article written by Willis Tate, entitled "Is Camping All Greek?" Mr. Tate skillfully compares the methods used in the Spartan system of education with the methods used in modern organized camps, such as

the boy being taken from the care of his mother when seven years of age and put in charge of assistants to the paedonomus: "The boys were cared for at public expense; they slept in public barracks; they ate at common tables; they assisted in supplying the necessary food; they hunted wild animals; they participated in the choral dances of their religious ceremony." The ancient Greek, Plutarch, tells us that "he who showed the most conduct and courage amongst them was made captain of the company."

Spartan boys were required to learn to ride, to swim, to engage in athletics and participate in games. Their activities were organized to build up social control. No lounging spectators were permitted—every boy participated. "However, even with the grand experience of living together and learning to work as a part of a unit, a certain element of modesty is attributed to the Spartan boy, and they are renowned throughout history for their manners. 'When they went along the highway, they kept their hands under their coat and walked in silence, keeping their eyes fixed on the ground before their feet . . . they were as modest as a girl. When they came into the mess-room, you could hardly hear them even answer a question.'"

In many respects the modern organized camp parallels the Spartan system of education, and it is interesting to read a forty-four page mimeograph copy of a Camp Manual for Leaders, prepared by L. W. Riess for use in the Greek National Y.M.C.A. Camp Pelion, and discover that in the very land where the Spartan boys experienced this highly organized educational system, there is now being conducted a modern organized camp. The following is quoted from one of the camp letters sent to an American leader of boys, from Herbert Lansdale, a graduate of Oberlin, and the National Y.M.C.A. Secretary for Greece: "How would you like to be in a summer camp in sight of Mount Olym-

pus, around which center so many stories of the old Greek gods? The summer camp of Saloniki is right at the foot of that famous mountain. It is the first camp in Greece and Greek boys like it. They are learning to live out of doors much as American boys do in the summer time."

Twenty-five years ago—1911—the American organized camping movement was carried to other lands by the Young Men's Christian Association. The organization which pioneered the movement in America again was the pioneer of the movement in other lands. The progress of the movement reads like a romance. Without attempting to arrange chronologically the organized camps in foreign lands, perhaps we can best understand the influence of this American movement in establishing new attitudes in world friendships and in the setting up of new standards in health, leadership, and character, by relating actual experiences gleaned from the mass of literature before me.

First International Camp

In 1925 about one hundred boys between sixteen and nineteen years of age, from eighteen different nations—healthy boys of Asia, America and Europe—gathered on the shores of Lake Neuchatel, Vaumarcus, Switzerland, for the first International Camp, under the leadership of the World Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association.

At the last campfire, held on the Sunday night, a Fire of Friendship and Service was lighted. It was a memorable moment when, carrying the flags of their respective countries, the representatives of eighteen nationalities came to the center and made their contributions to the "Fire of Friendship," and while standing there, were reminded that the special privilege they enjoyed was desired by and should be shared by others.

Each individual camper then came forward and, producing a stick on which had been carved the initials of the nations present, lighted it at the fire, thus symbolizing his desire, in harmony with Christian loyalty, to pass on to others the spirit of Friendship they had so happily experienced. They then repeated together the following:

"We leave this Campfire, conscious of the differences, but with a wider vision of Christian fellowship and a deeper faith in God our Father, and determined to work for peace and good-will among men."

Switzerland, whose soil cultured many peace conferences, thus again was the country to first witness a new movement which has grown to sizable proportions and wielding a mighty influence in challenging youth to forget self-interest and national horizons and to envision a world of friendly men.

The Movement Spreads

In 1926 the International Camp was held in Helsingfors, Finland, and in 1927 one in Windsor, England, as well as at Szigliget, Hungary. In 1928 a number of camps were conducted: the first near Vizby, an island of Gotland, Sweden, August 2 - 10, for the boys of Northern Europe, the second at Vaumarcus, Switzerland, August 13 - 21; also camps were held in Germany, Holland, and for the first time in the Far East where the Fire of Friendship was lighted on one of the beautiful islands of Japan. Around that fire gathered the boys of the Pacific. During these four years 700 older boy campers, representing 40 nations, spent 51 days of camping in six different camps—all operated upon the American plan of organization. All of these campfires were lighted with torches brought from the first fire lighted at Vaumarcus.

In 1929 the International Camp was held at Wernfels, in an old castle, near Nuremberg, Germany. One hundred and fifty boys from fifteen nations lived together for a week. In July of this year a camp was held in Vuzen, near Nagasaki, Japan.

In 1930 International Camps were conducted in Denmark, Czechoslovakia, and Scotland. In 1931 the youth of the world, after a long trek, assembled in Toronto, Canada. Upon adjournment, 250 Y.M.C.A. camps in the United States and Canada entertained the 147 foreign boys as camp guests. Over 80,000 American boys participated in raising the fund to bring these boys from other lands to their camps.

In 1932 the movement spread to India where on Christmas Eve boys whose homes were in twelve great areas—from Australia through India and Europe to Canada—sat around the campfire in Mysore State, India. They spoke ten tongues: their religious faiths were Hindu, Buddhist, Mohammedan and Christian. It was the high point of a week's fellowship in the Y.M.C.A.'s first International Camp for Older boys of the Indo-Australian area. During the

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same year camps were operated in Poland and France.

In August, 1933, more than one hundred boys of high school and college age from Korea, Japan, China, Siam, India and the Philippine Islands, met in the Philippine Islands for a week of fellowship and discussion. Norway and Switzerland also conducted camps during this year.

In 1935 the camp was held in Norway, near Oslo, and in 1936 at Hatfield Park, the country seat of the Marquis of Salisbury, near London, England.

For eleven summers boys of all nations transcended racial and international difficulties over the wash-basins in these camps, which have been described as a Babel of Tongues amid a Tower of Friendship. The language difficulty, however, in gatherings of this kind, is not as difficult as at first appears. Boys soon discover that they can enjoy fellowship with each other even though they have difficulty in exchanging ideas without an interpreter.

Camp Knows No National Borders

There are two camps on the border between Czecho-Slovakia and Poland, at Suchahora on the frontier. A century-old feud existed between these people. It is sunset. The boys of both camps meet at the border. Each camp's standard-bearers proudly carry the national colors. Bloodshed? Ah, no! The standards were exchanged as a token of trust and fellowship; the boys then gathered around a common campfire, after which a group of Polish boys crossed over into Czecho-Slovakia and were for four days guests at Camp Orava, situated under the shadow of the ancient Orava Castle. Eight of the Czecho-Slovakian group then returned the compliment by paying a visit to the boys of the Polish Camp.

To seal and strengthen improved Polish-Danzig relationships, the Hitler leaders in Danzig one summer agreed with Poland on an exchange visit of boys. A group of twenty Danzig-Hitler boys was quickly organized to go to Poland and spend ten days in a boys' camp. The Polish Government chose the National Boys' Camp of the Y.M.C.A. at Mszana Dolna and invited the Y.M.C.A. to be host. Campers and visitors were treated to the heartening sight of the Polish flag, the Danzig flag and the

Hitler swastika flying together from the camp flagstaff.

Ambassadors of Good Will

At Camp Perry on the Black Sea there occurred a most striking incident of international friendship. It happened during the swimming period, near the close of the camp. Mehmed Bey, Turkish physical director of the Normal School in Angora and a new hand at swimming, had gone in over his head in a bit of current. He yelled for help and Mike Sterghiades, the Greek swimming director, jumped in and pulled him out. At the supper table that evening, Mehmed acknowledged his debt of gratitude to Mike by telling the boys the whole incident, and getting up from the head table he walked the length of the big dining tent to embrace Mike, kiss him, and shake his hand most warmly. The crowd broke loose in a mighty applause. Many similar incidents are recorded where campers became ambassadors of good will.

In 1925 the author was invited to write an article for *The Sphere*, a magazine published in Geneva, Switzerland, and published in French, German and English, on the subject of "How to Organize a Boys' Camp." It was a Camping Number and in addition to this article there was one by E. M. Robinson of New York on "A Needed Emphasis in Camping"; also one by L. K. Hall, at that time Boys' Work Secretary of the Chinese National Y.M.C.A. Committee, now Dean of Boys' Work at Springfield College, on "Y.M.C.A. Camps in China." These articles contributed to the establishment of camping standards by providing a literature, though elementary in character yet dealing specifically with accepted camping principles.

Camps for Japanese Girls

Uradomi is a girls' camp conducted by the Japanese Mission of the American Board, and the following is quoted from the *News Bulletin* for October, 1929: "What is Uradomi? It is a camp where each summer different groups of students gather for conferences, recreation and devotional meetings. Six camps were held during 1929. 'The beautiful beach, the sunset across the water, the old pirate cave, the rocks of Kamogaiso, are memories that come back again and again,' writes one of the campers. Another girl writes: 'I can never forget the life in middy and bloomers, the sound of the whis-

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tle which you blew, and vespers on the rock.' " The program for the day reads like the program of an American camp beginning with flag-raising and ending with the familiar taps.

The High School Girls Camp was typical of that age group. A camp father, Mr. Hirata, was responsible for the program and the article describing this camp adds that "had he not been the easy-going, happy-go-lucky camp father, he would have been worn out by his twenty-three camp daughters, who were up at six o'clock every morning and on the go with one thing or another until nine o'clock at night."

Uradómi was the parent of several other camps in Japan, one of which is at Lake Toya in Hokkaido. This camp is for boys. Another is Imaharu Camp for Girls under the leadership of Mr. Takenchi, a teacher in the Matsuyama Girls' School, and is located on Island Sea at Imaharu.

In 1929 Mr. Leeds Gulick (son of Dr. Sidney Gulick), who is connected with the Japanese Mission, while on a furlough to America, visited and studied in detail the workings of the following American Camps: Aloha, Aloha Hive, Camp Bob White, Camp Maqua, Hanoum, Lanakila, Neshobe, Pemigewassett, Wohela, and several Y.M.C.A. camps. The *Bulletin* states "through the contacts formed at these camps it is hoped in the future to have an exchange of letters among campers and that other activities of mutual interest will transpire. It is ever the aim of the Camp Committee to keep the camps in Japan up to the standards set by the camps of America." Mr. Gulick not only did this practical work but he took a course in camp supervision in Chicago, his term paper taking the form of a plan for the training of leaders, both foreign and Japanese.

In further confirmation of the above statements made in the *News Bulletin*, the author called upon Mrs. Edward L. Gulick, aunt of Mr. Leeds Gulick, for additional information. She said that the camps were fine examples of high-grade organized camps, and that letters are exchanged each year between the Aloha Camps and the Japanese camps.

English Visitors Study Camps

The Camp Directors Association in 1926 accepted a suggestion from the English Speak-

ing Union of Great Britain that a representative of the Union be sent to America to study the organized camp. Miss Muriel Holding, a teacher from England, was the guest of the Association and visited a number of camps in the East.

Miss Olive Wright, captain of English Girl Guides, a woman who had camped with her girls in Denmark and France, was the guest in 1927.

The 1929 guest was Hon. Mildred Lowther of London who visited camps in the middle west. Her impressions of her visit and also an account of the English camps, is given in *Camping* for November, 1929.

Miss Kathleen Daniels, English Girl Guide and head of Camping for the Western Area, was the 1931 guest. Her visits were confined to camps in the eastern area.

The guest in 1932 was Cynthia Mary Stocker, a representative of the English Girl Guides. She spent six weeks, visiting ten different camps in New York State and New England.

These official visitors from England created a fine spirit of fellowship between the camps of the United States and of England.

Denmark Boys in American Camps

In 1928 one hundred Danish preparatory school boys under the leadership of Sven O. Knudsen, visited several American camps and received their first glimpse of the organized camp and saw American boys at their best, in the great out of doors of America. The year previous, one hundred American boys under the same leadership visited Denmark where they were entertained in the homes and lived the life of the Danish families. This inter-visitation has been carried on between the youth of different nations, but is not a direct result of the organized camp movement.

World Friendship Through World Tours

The initial tour of American boys to Europe was made in 1924 under the leadership of J. A. Van Dis, a secretary of the International Committee of the Y.M.C.A., and a camp director of long experience. The International Committee sponsored the tours, the objective being "to promote the idea of world outlook and world brotherhood among the boys of the nations of the world." This first party was limited to twenty boys, 16 to 18 years of age. Ten weeks were spent in visiting England,

France, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.

The success of this tour was such that each year until the present time tours are conducted, including a "camp special" which includes a stay in the International Camps and other camps in different countries.

Space does not permit a history of the Jamboree conducted by the Boy Scouts, at which many thousand boys from all parts of the world gather for demonstration of the excellent constructive work carried on through the Scouting program. Some idea of the value of such an event may be obtained from the Jamboree held in 1933 at Godollo, Hungary, when 30,000 boys from thirty-seven nations shouted the word "Brother" in thirty-seven languages—"a babel of sound from a unity of thought."

Private Camps in Europe

Most organized camps in Europe are conducted under the auspices of institutions and organizations, but in 1922 the private camp was initiated in France by Maurice C. Blake, a graduate of Dartmouth College and Oxford University, whose Camp Bourget is located on Lac du Bourget, at Tresserve in eastern France. The camp was for American boys.

The McJannet Camps on Lake Annecy, Talloires, in the French Alps—L'Aiglon for boys and Alouette for girls—conducted by Donald Ross McJannett; Camp Neuvic for girls, Neuvic-sur-l'Isle, Dordogne, France, directed by Henry A. Dresser and Capt. P. H. Chadbourne; Camp Diviko for boys, St. Prex, Lake Geneva, Switzerland, directed by Dr. Hans Walter, were the pioneer private camps imported from America to Europe and adapted to meet European conditions. The McJannett Camps are the sole survivors of the above group.

Countries in Which Camps are Established

The following countries now have organized camps conducted upon the American plan: Argentina, Australia, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Burma, Brazil, China, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Manchuria, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Porto Rico, Roumania, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Uruguay.

In brief form we have shown how this great camp movement has spread throughout the

world. In this movement is the challenge of the future, for the future lies in the hands of Youth. Truly, President Charles W. Eliot of Harvard University, uttered a great prophecy when he said at the Boston meeting of Camp Directors in 1922, that "The organized summer camp is the most important step in education that America has given to the world."

Program of Research and Studies

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conference will be invited persons who have special interest in and knowledge about such matters. The primary purpose of such a conference will be to review the problems that have been discovered and listed growing out of the steps previously mentioned, to fill in any gaps that may exist, and especially, to help in the formulation of a procedure by which to study the problems thus outlined.

VI. It is recognized that the program of investigation and inquiry which will be developed as a result of these exploratory steps will take different forms. Some of the work can be carried forward through carefully planned and guided discussions in local Sections; other parts of the program can be pursued cooperatively by a few geographically related camps undertaking some specific problem to study. Other problems, again, may be of such a nature as to require a survey type of investigation, city wide, county wide, state wide, or regional in character. Other problems will involve the most intensive type of research demanding highly refined technical instruments to guarantee valid and reliable results. Still other problems may need to be approached by setting up experiments and laboratory situations. It will be seen, therefore, that an important function of the research committee and of the technical advisors who are consulted, will be to determine the appropriate methods and techniques for specific types of problems.

VII. The exploratory inquiry called for obviously requires a full twelve months to complete adequately. It will be possible to hold several meetings of the Research Committee, particularly for those members who are close to Chicago, between now and the annual Convention in February. A full meeting of the Research Committee will be held in conjunction with the Convention, to allow sufficient time for thorough discussion and creative thinking.

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